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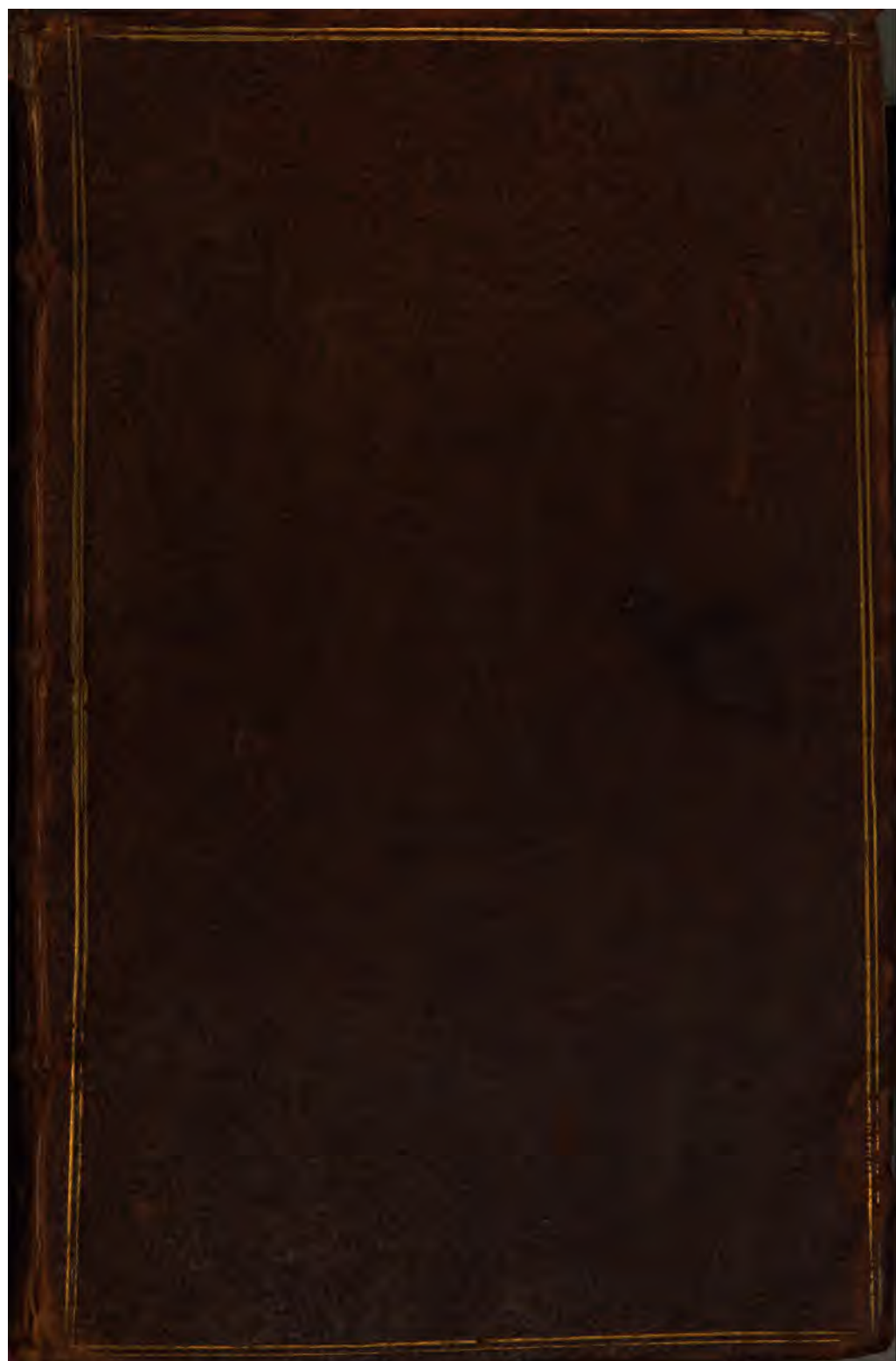
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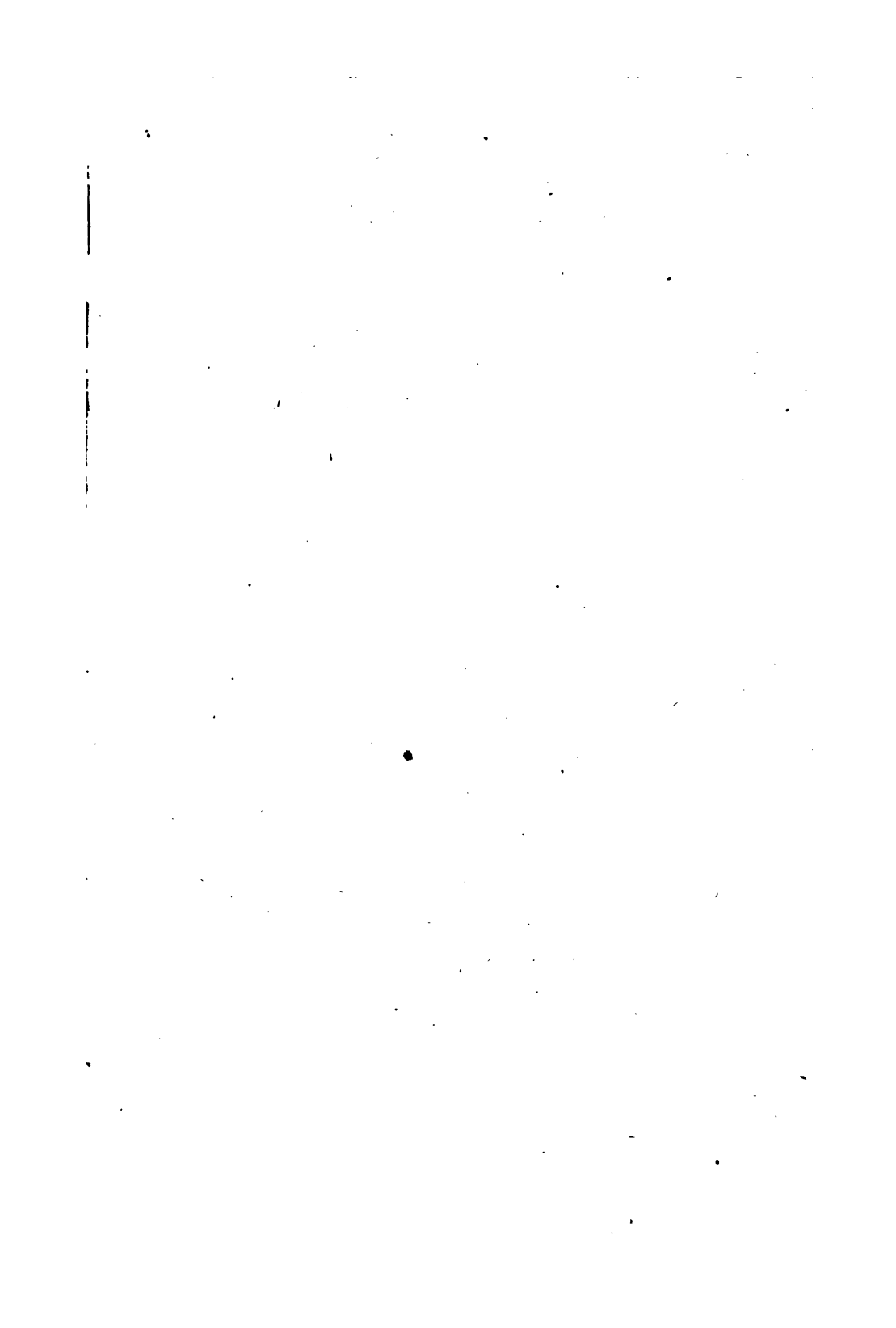


84











THE  
**ANCIENT PHYSICIAN'S LEGACY**  
impartially survey'd ;

And his PRACTICE prov'd Repugnant,  
not only to that of the best antient and  
modern Physicians, but to the very Na-  
ture of those Diseases (many of them) of  
which he undertakes to give us an Ac-  
count; inconsistent even with those very  
Indications himself at some Times lays  
down for the Cure.

WITH  
Practical OBSERVATIONS upon each Chapter.  
IN  
*A LETTER to a Country Physician.*

To which is added,

In the way of POSTSCRIPT,  
**A DISCOURSE on Quicksilver,**

As now commonly Taken :

And the good or bad Effects which have  
thence ensued.

AS ALSO,

A particular Account of Monsieur *Bellost's* Pill  
compar'd with the Author's.

And the CASE of *Barton Booth, Esq;*  
the late famous *Tragedian*.

As the same was communicated to the Author  
by Mr. *Alexander Small, Surgeon*,  
who open'd the Body in the Presence of Sir *Hans Sloan*.

---

By DANIEL TURNER,  
*of the College of Physicians, London.*

---

London, Printed for John Clarke, at the Bible under the  
Royal Exchange, Cornhill. 1733.



A

# TABLE

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N.B. Upon a Review of this Chapter the Author finds he has wrongfully charged the *Ancient Physician* with mistaking the *Ascarides* for the *Lumbricus Latus*, by overlooking the Word *Little*, and minding only that of *flat Worms*; for which he is to ask Pardon: For if the *Ascarides* are flat, which through their Minuteness he never heeded, they may justly be termed *flat Worms*. Yet at the same Time, whilst he was treating of the Diseases of the *Intestines*, particularly mentioning *Worms*, those certainly which are more remarkable; such as the *Lumbricus Latus*, particularly so denominated, as well as others of the Earthworm resemblance, ought, I think, to have been observ'd, the former especially, as now hinted, being so peculiarly distinguish'd by the Name of the *Tape* or *flat Worm*.

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Page	Line	Proceeding	read	Proceeding
39.	29.	does	do	
42.	21.	as	a	
49.	5.	for the Bird itself	for the Egg	
Ibid.	9.	some	a	
96.	4.	Them	Him	
97.	23.	shall	should	
157.	10.		I may do	
194.	8.	Cafe	Cases	
221.	27.	them	him	
	30.	their	his	
	31.	Idem.	ibid.	
231.	15.	unfeebled	enfeebled	
	16.	Aliment	Aliment	
240.	3.		by any Corragice	
257.	7.	dele these Words,	after to be	
271.	19.	Amigd. dul. decoct.	Amigd. dul. decoct.	

N.B. The following Discourse having been printed at two different Places, though the same is regularly continued, there has been a Mistake in the Pages, from N<sup>o</sup> 180 to 193. of which the Reader is inform'd, that he may not think any part thereof to be wanting.

The

( 1 )

*The Antient Physician's Legacy impartially Survey'd, &c.*

I N A

L E T T E R

T O A

Country Practitioner.

S I R,

**Y**OU have sent me a very short Letter, but therein enjoin me a much longer Penance. You don't consider surely that I am now grown an old Man, going out of the World as well as the *Antient Physician* himself, about whose *Legacy* you write: and who thought indeed e're now to have retired from it, for the sake of that Peace and Quiet I hope yet to enjoy. You tell me, that *it is my Duty to forewarn the Ignorant of the Danger that may befall them, in listening to those who have more Assurance than Skill or Judgment in the Profession they take upon them*: I should have been glad, had you thought fit, you had address'd some others of your Friends in *London*, of more Leisure and greater Abilities,

B



## 2     *The Antient* PHYSICIAN'S

lities, (*tho' I think there is not much of this latter wanted*) for the present Undertaking. If you please however to accept some transient Thoughts, and excuse the haste in which they have been drawn up, since the Receipt of yours, I here present them, declaring first of all that I have not the least Ill-will or Prejudice to the Author, who is a Stranger to me, tho' I must own I am prejudiced against some Parts of his Practice, because I am satisfy'd the same, in many Cases, if pursued, must be prejudicial to the Health of my Fellow-Citizens. I never was call'd in upon Him, nor should I care to meet a Man in Consultation, who has behaved so unhandsomly to the whole Faculty of Physick, even to those very Gentlemen who did Him the Honour to admit Him a Licentiate. Nor do I remember to have been oftentimes call'd after Him, altho' once particularly (*I can't forget the same*) in Company with that honest and good-natured Man, your Friend, the deceased Dr. *Wagstaff*, to a Patient in *Goodman's Fields*, whom we found perfectly *Comatose*, and who deceased the next Day truly *Lethargick*; tho' he had lain thus, (as the Relations told us) for some Days, not one Blister had been apply'd, nor any *Volatile*, or other Remedy carrying a *Stimulus* along with it, administer'd.

In.

In the way of Requitall, the same Gentleman was very lately called in after me, to an honest and worthy *West-India Captain*, at *Mile-End*, labouring seemingly under a *nervous Asthma*. In the beginning of the Spring, I had relieved him by *Volatiles*, such as the *Sal C. C. Vol.* and he had no Fit for several Months after, till towards the last Autumn, when the same came upon him with greater Violence than ever. After I had tried the former Remedies without Success, as well as sundry others, the poor Gentleman began to complain of violent *Spasms* on the *Præcordia*, insomuch that he could not bear to lie down in his Bed, the Disease being attended with so great Palpitation of Heart, as to elevate the *Sternum*, and by the Noise, hindering him from taking the least Rest. I told the Apothecary (Mr. *Lee*, a Man of good Worth in the Neighbourhood) that some *Polypous Concretions* were in all likelihood formed either in the *Ventricles* of the Heart, or the Vessels passing into or from the same; and that the Disease lay out of the reach of Medicine.

The same Evening the *Quicksilver Doctor*, as he says the People call him, or as he would be called by them, was sent for; and *Quicksilver* surely was to be the *Asylum*; but before any Quantity thereof could be got down, the Captain in extreme Anguish

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deceas'd, not from the Remedy, but the Force of the Disease.

Upon opening the Body, as the Surgeon told me, (for I was not by) the right Auricle of the Heart was prodigiously distended, and filled with *Thrombus*, a Polypus also discovered in the pulmonary Artery at its exit from the same; whence of necessity both that strong Vibration, and difficulty of Respiration, took its rise: Nature by a redoubled *Nisus*, endeavouring to force a Way for the Circulation to be continued thro' those Organs.

This only as Preliminary: I shall now come to my Remarks upon each Disease, as they lie in the Order he has placed them: but before I enter on that Task, I cannot overlook his Introduction.

“ It is (saith he) especially necessary in  
“ the Cure of Diseases, to be thorowly  
“ acquainted with the Nature of them.  
“ Without this Knowledge no good is to  
“ be done: On the contrary, much harm  
“ may probably ensue from the Physician's  
“ mistaking the Patient's Case.”

One might think surely, after this *Exordium*, no Man would have undertaken to treat of any Disease, of whose Nature or real Essence he was not rightly apprised: or have proposed any Method of Cure for the same, inconsistent with the Nature of such Disease; and yet, I believe, you will find this

Gentleman

Gentleman exceedingly deficient as to both, in almost every one he has enter'd in his Treatise.

*Of the Gout.*

Which altho' very justly term'd *Opprobrium Medicorum*, is made light of by this *Adept* in Physick, who pretends to have made a very extraordinary Discovery in finding out *that the Matter of this Disease is Matter, and an alkaline Matter also, witness the Chalk Stones, found in the Internodes of Arthritick Patients, in which, he says, the whole Faculty have been deceived*; as if any of them had been so mad as to surmise the Gouty Fomes, *Immaterial*. However others may have been mistaken, it is, I think, evident this Gentleman knows little of it, or the proper Parts which Nature has appointed for the *Deposita* of this gouty Matter, where it ought, and should be encouraged rather than diverted, unless we were Masters of a Remedy that would destroy its *Essence* or *radically* subdue it.

The Gout, it is very certain, is both *Nervous* and *Humoural*; that is, consisting of more subtil and spirituous, as well as grosser Particles. The first appears plain by the dire *Spasms* on the Membranes, whether those of the Brain, the Breast, or

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the lower Belly ; where it very frequently acts the Tragedy, and kills the Patient : The last is as evident by the Swelling and Inflammation on the Hands and Feet, where, however it may pain and enfeeble the Parts, it never destroys him. The first is termed *Anomalous*, the last *Genuine*. Whoever knows the Nature of the former of these, and the great Danger he may happen to undergo thereby ; so soon as ever he apprehends the gouty Matter separating from the Blood, as by the preceding *Flatulency* and *Ructus* sometimes happens, and threatening an Attack ; instead of diverting the Storm from falling where it should, the proper *Receptacula*, the extreme Parts, will encourage it all he can, lest it should seize upon the more noble, which frequently is the Case where repelling *Topicks* have been used, or the said Parts have been exposed to the cold Air.

I have the rather taken notice of this Incident, because the Doctor tells us, that *whereas Physicians have proposed warm Flannels to the part, they are in the wrong ; for that it is Proprium Caloris attrahere, and does beyond doubt attract the gouty Matter*. I will not say it was by this Man's Advice, but that of one in the same Way of thinking, that a Person for whom I was not long since consulted, dipping his Foot in Water, on the Approach of a *Paroxysm*,

was the same Evening seized with a violent Spasm on his Breast, under which I found him crying out, he was a dead Man, and had brought his Death upon himself by a rash Experiment. When I had been informed thereof, I could think of no other Way of helping him, than by immediately directing dry Cups to his Feet, and Blisters to his Legs, upon the very Foundation of the Dr.'s Philosophy, *i. e. Proprium est Caloris attrahere*, and thereby saved my Patient; for the next Morning, by that time the Blisters took place, the Spasm (for which I also directed a large Dose of *Sal Vol. C. C.* in a warm cordial Draught) left him, and he began to complain of a Pain on the Joint of his great Toe, where it was wont to seize him, and where possibly a *warm Flannel* might have invited it first of all, and have secured him from the Danger he underwent of forfeiting his Life to so hazardous an Experiment.

Every Man therefore subject to this Malady, ought surely to be well pleased when it falls upon those Parts which Nature seems to have appointed for it: Unless, as I said but now, we were Masters of some *specific* Remedy that would destroy the very Essence thereof, lest by Translation it seize on others, and prove fatal. Passing this as a necessary Caution to gouty People,

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We will hasten to his Cure, which he tells us may be effected without *Opiats*, to which he owns himself not only a *Stranger*, but that he very much dislikes them.

Having set down his Purge of *Tamarinds*, *Sena*, *Rhubarb*, &c. and shewed his Dislike of *Opium*, he immediately subjoins the following *English* Receipt.

“Take *Opium* an Ounce, Salt Petre and  
 “Tartar vitriolated, each four Ounces, I-  
 “pecacuhanna an Ounce, Liquorish an  
 “ounce; put the Salt Petre and Tartar  
 “into a red hot Mortar, stirring them about  
 “with a Spoon till they have done flam-  
 “ing, then powder them fine, and slice in  
 “your *Opium*: grind these to a Powder,  
 “and then mix the other Powders with  
 “these; the Dose is from 40 to 60 or  
 “70 Grains in White-wine Posset Drink,  
 “going to Bed.”

Is it possible a Man should be so forgetful, as after he had told us a few Lines before, that he disliked *Opiats*, he should set down such a Jumble as this before us, in the least Dose of which, how weak soever the Patient, he must take four or five Grains of *Opium*, and in the largest, six or seven; enough to overset almost any Person whatsoever? He says indeed, that no Body can have the Gout to that degree, but that a *Rebate* may be given to his Pains: and surely if such a Dose of *Opium* will not give the

the *Rebate*, what can? The Gentleman you will find by all his Prescriptions, is for striking at the Root, rather than not destroy the Disease he will kill the Patient, altho' he warrants any one that will take this pleasant, easy *Sudorific*, how much soever afflicted therewith over Night, shall be set upon his Legs the next Day, and brings an Example of a Nobleman's Servant, who by the help of it, was on the Morrow in a pair of very strait Shoes (*that we may have still more of the wonderful*) able to walk from *Albemarle* to *Cecil-street*, to return his good Doctor Thanks; who asking him how he did? replies, Never better in his Life. *The Answer made by most of his sick People, after the Miracle is wrought upon them.*

I believe in all your reading, you never met with the Powder of Liquorish, nor yet that of the *Indian Root*, among the Class of *Diaphoreticks*: nor can you produce a *Pharmacopeia*, that for a *Rebater* of Pain, can match it. However, you have two Strings given you to your Bow. If the *Sudorific* will not do, you are to take *Mynsicht's Elixir Vitrioli*; but in its due Latitude, that is a large Spoonful for a Dose: and if *Water will quench Fire*, he assures us, *that this will put out in time that of the Gout*; if it does not, like the former, extinguish also the Lamp of Life; tho' there are few Stomachs will suffer that Quantity,  
however



however diluted, without throwing it up again, as I was told by an Apothecary very lately, where the Medicine had been thus ordered by the Doctor, on the account of an Hæmorrhage. The Remedy you know is a very good one, especially in a relaxed Tone of the Ventricle, as happens by the excess in spirituous Liquors, and the palled Appetites of those who are constantly tipping of the same. But then we are to consider it may be carry'd to such Extremes, as may induce even a Coagulum upon the Blood itself, and corrugate the Fibres so as to make them rigid, and hinder the Secretion of the Fluids thence, which Fluids he says are the Seat of all Diseases. This plainly shews how little regard he has to the *Strictum & Laxum* of an animal Fibre, upon which the Philosophy of *hot* and *cold Bathing* are absolutely founded, and by the not rightly attending to these different States of the *Solids*, as much Mischief, for ought I know, may arise, as Good to our People thus rashly running on the Experiments.

This Elixir you will find is a darling Medicine with the Doctor, and must be allowed, when properly dosed and suitably appropriated to the Nature of the Disease, and the Condition of the Fibres, as it may do much Good: so in one that is impropportionate, where the same Fibres are already

ready over tense, or rigid: in Cholicks, Cramps or Spasms of any kind, it may do more Harm than Good, and ought at no time to be given in so large a Quantity as the Gentleman directs it.

*Of the Dropsy.*

In treating of this Disease he seems as much out of the Way as in the foregoing, whether we respect the Nature, or the Cure thereof. He has indeed rightly distinguished them as *Ascitical*, *Tympanitical* and *Anasarcaus*; but when he tells us they are all to be cured the same Way, by purging, and that the Patient is to go on purging, till the Blood has recovered its Tone; 'tis manifest he knows little of the Nature of some *Dropsies*. There are those indeed which give way to Purgatives; and there are others very much increased thereby. If the *Viscera* are not firm or tight, or where the Liver is scirrhus, (the Case as well of the *Ascitical*, but more frequently of the *Ictericus*, complicate with this Distemper) the more you purge, the more you break the Texture of the Blood, already in fusion, destroy its Balsam, increase the Disease you thus attempt to cure, and kill the Patient.

He says, there are very few that have been relieved by the *Paracentesis*, and I am of Opinion he can give few Instances of the

*Tym-*

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*Tympanites*, and fewer of a true *Ascites*, that have been cured by his constant purging. I have in another Place informed you, that whatever is the secretory Ductus which sheds this Liquor, and makes a Pond in the lower *Venter*, the most certain excretory one is the *Trochart*, by which to drain away the same; and it is certainly the Duty of every honest Physician, who finds his Attempt vain to soder the Leak, to keep his Patient's Head above Water as long as he can, and this Way to protract Life, rather than leave him to be drown'd, however, upon dry Land. Many a Ship's Crew, this Gentleman must needs know, have been saved by emptying from the Pump, and some few (I wish I could say more) have been entirely ransomed by the Operation, who had otherwise inevitably perished. Be this as it will, it must be allowed of all, that a continued Course of strong Purgation, as he directs, without Corroboratives, particularly Bitters, and others of like kind, to bind up the Compages of the Blood, in this state of its fusion; are indispensibly necessary to be given on the Days between such Purgation, and without which, the Patient is so far from any likelihood of being emptied, that he will fill the faster.

The *Anasarca*, he says, happens rarely in comparison of the Dropsy; tho' this is no other

other than a Dropsy of the Legs and Thighs; and I think there are not many Instances to be given of the *Dropsy*, if we except the true *Ascites* and *Tympanites*, where these precede not that of the Belly.

I will now come to his Cure, such as none surely, unless a Farrier, would have prescribed; his Conversation you know has been much with Tars, and he thinks the most tender Constitutions of our Citizens, will bear the same rough handling. But is it not strange, a Man who must needs by his Conversation among these Creatures, have seen many Instances of a true Scurvy, should know so little of its Essence, as to deny that it is other than a mere Name, under which Physicians take Sanctuary to conceal their Ignorance of some Diseases; for when, saith he, p. 31. (being minded to play upon the Word) *they meet with a Distemper they know little of, they call it a scurvy one*; but I will here enter his Purge.

*Take an Ounce of Steel with as much crude Antimony, and a quarter of a Pound of Diagredium, and make it into an Electuary, with what Syrup you please.*

And here, as I told you of his *Sudorific*, I may defy you to match this also, or give one Example of such a Purgative, dosed out by Spoonfuls. Yet, as an Encouragement, he tells you of two Miracles wrought  
by

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by such a Purge, if not the very same, taken Night and Morning. "The first on  
 " a Gentleman who had an Asthma, occasioned by a Dropsy in his Breast, which  
 " was emptied a Gallon or six Quarts at a  
 " time, every Day, till the whole was drawn  
 " off : which being thus daily prosecuted,  
 " *as the Doctor wisely observes*, it must be  
 " supposed he was soon freed from his  
 " Waters, and after enjoyed a better Health  
 " than for twenty Years before. The second was upon a Man who had Tumours  
 " on both his Knees; the Surgeons, he says,  
 " call them White Swellings: One of these  
 " was an honest Man, and finding he could  
 " do him no good, sent him to the *Bath*,  
 " to which Place he had resorted for twenty  
 " Years: At last the Doctor was sent for,  
 " who by his great Cunning found the Patient had an *Ascites*, which he purged off  
 " together with the White Swellings; and  
 " enquiring after, understood that he had  
 " a better Command of his Legs than for  
 " the same Space of Time with the former,  
 " just twenty Years past." For these two Recoveries, Mr. *Bradly* \* presents you with two more who died under the Operation of his Hydragogue. *The one a Gentleman of Character and Reputation, in a good Post under the King: for the quenching of whose*

\* See *Physical and Philosophical Remarks*, p. 121 to 126.

*Thirst,*

*Thirst, Anchovies and Bread with Butter, were ordered by the Doctor. The other, he tells us, was Mr. Anthony Blay, Uncle to Mr. Elege at the Blue Posts in Ruffel-street, Covent-Garden, from whom, he says, he has the Account, with Authority to use their Names; but indeed, whoever considers the Nature of the Remedy, and the Manner of its Exhibition, will need no Arguments nor yet Examples, to convince him, how dangerous it must be, thus taken twice a Day, especially to weak People and those who are prone to Fluxes, when the *ὑπερκαταρσις* must inevitably be the Consequence.*

Such a Remedy as this was lately given by a famous *Dropsy Doctor* in this City, which having something peculiar in the Patient's Sentiments, as well as there is in the Doctor's Taste for Physick, I will give a brief Recital.

An elderly Gentlewoman being swelled in her Belly, the Case was supposed to be dropfical, and she was much importuned by her Daughter to send for a Physician. She objected to this Proposal, *That if she was ordained for Death, the Doctor's help would avail nothing: and if for Life, his Physick was unnecessary. Pray, Madam, replies the Daughter, let us however try, if not for your own, for my Satisfaction.* The Doctor (as he is called) was sent for, who told her, he should order her a Purge, that

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that in two or three times taking would infallibly empty all the Water, if it carry'd it not off at once. The old Lady was prevailed on, and the Purge was taken; but before Night she seemed expiring under the Operation; being plied with mulled Wine, as well by the Mouth, as Glysterwise, she began to revive. *Now, Child, says she to her Daughter, 'tis plain had I not been ordained for Life, this Man had killed me. By the help of God, I will have nothing more to do with him; nor will I tempt Providence any farther. If he comes again, tell him, I will take no more of his Physick; I know not whether it has carry'd off the Matter of the Disease, but think I am more blown up than before, and you know very well, had it continued but a few Minutes longer, what between my Vomiting and Purging, it must have carry'd off the Matter of my Life.* The Doctor came the next Day to know the Success; but finding a very cold Reception from the young Lady (who imparted this Relation to me with her own Mouth) retired in some Confusion.

You will scarce believe what Desperado's in Physick our City of *London* affords: You told me once you had ventured to give five Grains of *Elaterium*, with as much more of *Gutta Femou* or *Gamba*. Alas, Sir! our Empiricks will tell you that is a Dose for an Infant. I can shew you a  
Bill

Bill upon an Apothecary's File, wherein the following was ordered for a poor *Ascetical* Wench, who died quickly after. There is one Scruple of *Diagredium*, one Scruple of *Rosin of Jalap*, and as much *Elaterium*, besides two or three Ounces of *Decoët. Senæ Gereonis*, and an Ounce of *Syr. de Spina Cerv.* in which the Doctor, tho' he signs the Patients, very prudently leaves out his own Name. I proceed now to his Account

*Of the Diabetes.*

*This Disease, he says, is rarely met withal, tho' he happened to be sent for to two People, the same Day, who laboured therewith. What it is that mixing with the Blood can so suddenly fuse it, and carry off the nutritious Particles of the same, by the Streiners of the Kidneys, he remains silent, and only tells us, what every Body knows, and what its Name imports, that the Urine is made in profuse Quantity, and runs hastily through the Body, that it is of a Violet Scent, with an oily Substance swimming on the Surface, the Patient is feverish with great Thirst, and Dejection of Spirit, and that when these Symptoms meet they constitute this Distemper.*

Yet in this Description, whilst he adds some which don't belong thereto, he has left out the principal *Diagnostick*, I might  
C say



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say the *Pathognomonick*, viz. the sweet or honeyish Taste, which in all I have met with, deserving that Name, was never wanting. The Colour also, which inclines rather to a pale Cowslip, I might add something as to Weight, for this being rather *lymphatic* than simply *serous*, preponderates Quantity for Quantity, the limpid or clear Water of *Hysterical* and *Hypochondriacal* People. I have observed a Pint, Wine Measure, of the former, to exceed by a full Ounce the same Measure of the last; and lately lost a lusty Woman, whose Strength, in spite of all Endeavours, was run down in five or six Days time. The Urine was inodorous, no oily Nubes supernatant, any more than *Ænæorema* suspended, or *Hypostasis* at the bottom; it was ponderous, and had the true *Diabetick* taste, viz. that like Water wherein Honey had been dissolved. Mr. *Masse*y in *White-Chappel* was her Apothecary.

It is in this Chapter he falls foul upon Dr. *Willis*, for distinguishing that very popular Disease the *Scurvy*, into a *Salino-sulphureous* and the *Sulphureo-saline*; making the same no more than nominal, or a mere Subterfuge of Ignorance, as we remarked above. Here are two Miracles wrought for the Confirmation of this Cure, the one upon a Sea-Surgeon sick thereof, and confined to his Cabin. *The Doctor*,  
says

says he; presently found out his Disease, and sent him what he thought proper (tho' he has not thought proper to tell us what it was) from Shore, two or three Days after the Surgeon comes to return the Doctor Thanks, and to let him know what a Miracle he had wrought; for that he did now *pancratice valere*, which is the same thing, you know, as saying, he was as well as ever in his Life. The second Miracle was on a Person recommended to him by a Nobleman, who in few Days after (so sure was he of Success) he ordered to meet him at his Grace's House, where he gave his Grace Thanks (these are the Doctor's own Words) for being perfectly recovered. Having given us these two Instances, he says,

*There needs nothing more to be done for the Cure of this Disease, which has hitherto puzzled Physicians in all Ages, (tho' in the first, when People lived more temperate, and debauched less with spirituous Liquors, it is probable the Disease appeared not) than to drink a quarter of a Pint of Alum Posset-drink first and last, made as strong as your Stomach will bear it: This he has experienced for thirty-five Years, and does not remember that it ever failed.*

This, Sir, you know is the Country People's Remedy for the Cure of an Ague. What it may do in the *Diabetes*, I know not, having never try'd it, tho' I shall the

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first Opportunity I meet with, where it may be done with Safety. I am sure it is fittest for strong Habits, and that there are *Contra indicantia* to its use, such as menstrual Suppression in Women, the *Anhelitus difficilis*, and divers others: Nor to be plain with you, my Friend, can I readily listen after a Remedy recommended from a Quarter, where Sincerity in the stating of Facts is so much wanting, and where so few of those Remedies can be tried without hazard of the Patient's Life.

### *Of a Consumption.*

His account of this Distemper is of a Piece with the rest, whether going before or following, I mean inconsistent with Truth, and contradictory to all rational and sound Practice. He knows it seems of no *Chronical* Sicknefs, that is, inflammatory, unless this; but he forgets the *Nephritic* Illness, where there is a Stone too big to pass, which is often *chronic* and also inflammatory. There is a Salt and a fiery hot *Scorbutus*, notwithstanding the Gentleman's making merry with the Word, manifest by the Blotches and pustulary Eruptions, the great Heat and Thirst attending, with the lixivial Urine; by which for want of timely Aid, I have seen some Patients dry'd up as it were to Skin and Bones.

The

The *humoural Rheumatism* or *Arthritis Vago*, as he calls it, also the *Jaundice* are both *chronical* and *inflammatory*, if we may judge by the attending Heat, the Thirst and high-coloured Urine; but this by the Way only of shewing the Gentleman's want of Knowledge, or his Forgetfulness I would believe rather.

In the Cure, he very prudently advises every Thing should be avoided, that may heighten the Inflammation, or drive the Blood too fast through the Lungs: for which End instead of Syrups and Oils, which he tells us do a great deal of Mischief, the Patient is to take *Annise seeds with Salt of Steel, made into Pills with Lucatellus Balsam*; for the same purpose, *i. e.* abating this inflammatory State of the Blood, and quieting or taking of its *Impetus* thro' the respiratory Organs, he may make use of the *Cold Bath*; or he may take Quick-silver, which is the most beneficial Thing in the World.

But really I can't see to what End either internal or external Regimen should be laid down, when he places the whole Stress upon Bleeding frequently repeated, and performs all his Miracles of this kind this Way. Thus he instanceth in a Nephew of Sir George Caswell's, whose Lungs (if you can believe him) were apparently apostemated, as appeared from the corrupt and fetid

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*fetid Matter, with colliquative Sweats and Looseness; bringing up large Quantities of Blood, almost equal to a Vomica; this is the first Vomica I have heard of, throwing up Blood. He was blooded every other Day, and after sent to the Cold Bath, to try, since bleeding would not, if that would kill him; but the young Gentleman, reserved for better Things, velle Luto singulari formatus, stood the Shock of both. Another Wonder is wrought upon his Neighbour's Servant, who in a Pleurisy lost 260 Ounces of Blood, before his Pain left him. Yet it was thought by others a great Matter (he says) that my Lord Sunderland lost only the odd sixty, and dy'd, (as he would have us believe) for want of losing the 200. There is yet another Miracle wrought upon a Surgeon in Worcester-shire, whom the Doctor advised (so far gone in a Consumption that he could not stand alone) to draw off six Ounces of Blood every Day for a Fortnight, if he lived so long; otherwise he need lose but five; then every other Day, then every third and fifth Day for the same time, and under the like Proviso of his living out the time; this, he says, was in the Month of November. And in the March following, like a grateful Man, he rode forty-seven long Miles, to return the Doctor Thanks for trying this Experiment upon him; (for he owns himself it*  
was

was the first time of his making the same) after this he recovers another by the same Method, bleeding him fifty times in all. Three of these Experiments I have known made within these three Months, and every one died, in likelihood, sooner also than otherwise they had done.

I have no Objection to make against this leisurely Way of ventilating the Lungs, at the first Appearance of a Hectick, in order to prevent the Tubercles beginning to inflame, from Aposternation; but after such Abscess, or an Ulcer formed in the Lobes, especially attended with the melting Sweats and Looseness that bring up the Rear, and finish the Tragedy at the close; or when the Disease is confirmed, it must be hazardous, were it for no other Reason than that of hastening a Dropsy, the *last Symptom* (he says himself) *that comes on, a few Days before the Patient's Death.* But whatever he may be in as to his Condition, the Physician is certainly in *Extremis*, in so frequent repetition, and so long a continuance in the repetition of the Operation, unless the Pulse holds out, or the Patient instead of finding himself sunk, is rather relieved thereby.

Before I quit this Chapter, I cannot pass the Account he gives us thereof; in which there seems something of the Profound; but whether Sense or Nonsense, do you

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judge. " It begins, saith he, with a violent  
 " Cough, and is always attended with an  
 " inflamed Mass of Blood, except in con-  
 " vulsive Cases ; and as the Lungs are all  
 " Bronchia (*pray observe*) or little Air  
 " Bladders of the *Aspera Arteria*, when  
 " we inspire the inflamed Part, or what  
 " we see on the top of the Blood, which  
 " the Physicians term Pleuritical, is strained  
 " from the Mass, which being left in those  
 " Air Bladders, occasions a great Shortness  
 " of Breath, till by violent Coughing or  
 " frequent Succussions of the Lungs, it is  
 " brought off. If this Matter continues,  
 " it inflames the Lungs, till at last they are  
 " impostumated ; and then the Patient's  
 " Case becomes desperate."

Now surely as to this, whatever a Man  
 inspires, he must take out of the *Atmo-  
 sphere*, or the Air surrounding him ; and if  
 there are no inflamed Particles therein, he  
 can inspire none such ; to talk of a Man's  
 inspiring what lies either on the top or  
 bottom of his Blood is direct Nonsense, nor  
 is it possible he should cough up an In-  
 flammation on the Parts, rather by the  
 Succussion, as he terms it, of the same, the  
 Inflammation will be increased, and an  
 Abscess hastened in some Tubercle, first in-  
 flaming, and then, as before said, turning  
 to Matter, but without the need of any  
 Strainer to filter it from the rest of the  
 Mass.

Mafs. 'Tis the continual Motion the Lungs are under that renders all Solutions of their continuity so difficult of Union; and when an additional one, as by Coughing, is added to their Tonic, or that of their Contraction and Dilatation, the Patient, as I said but now, will be so far from getting rid of his Inflammation by means of his Cough, that both Abscess and Ulceration will be hazarded. When the first of these is burst, he may then cough up the Matter, but instead of getting help will find the Ulcer still daily increase, till he is destroyed thereby.

*Of an Asthma.*

In his Description of an *Asthma*, I find him very brief, nor does he mention one Word of *Quicksilver* as a Remedy for the same; tho' it is chiefly upon that Account it is now cried up as famous among the People. 'Tis possible this Discovery has been but lately made, or since he received his Letter from Esquire *Balam*, to whom he had advised it; otherwise he had surely made a great Flourish therewith upon the same Topick; instead of which not so much as one Miracle is inserted. That Letter doubtless was to supply the Place. What his dry'd Toad may do at these times I know not, nor I believe himself; but I cannot



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cannot think his Salt of Steel, however mixt with Castor, on account of its Stipticity, can be suitable to any Asthma, whether *Nervous*, or, as he terms it, *Convulsive*, any more than to that he calls *Sanguinary*, but means, I suppose, the *Humoural*: for a true *sanguinary Asthma*, I know of none unless the *Peripneumony*; and where his Gout Purge which he recommends, will, I fear, do but little Service; but if Quick-silver be the Specifick in these Cases, what need of *Toads*, of *Steel with Castor*, or of *Gout Purge* either?

### *Of the Jaundice.*

This Disease, saith our Physician, proceeds from an Obstruction of the *Ductus Choledochus*, which leads from the Gall (*the contained Part is here put for the containing, or the Bile itself, in place of the Porus or Vesica Fellis*) to the intestine *Duodenum*; whence the said Bile not passing there, leaves the *Ordure white*; when the *Ordure is not white*, it may be feared the Case is complicate: this he calls a *Symptomatical Jaundice*, which is never to be cured by *Ictericks*, or such Remedies as are commonly used in the *Jaundice*.

By this it appears how imperfect an Idea he has of this Distemper; for if any Jaundice may be termed *Symptomatical*, that

that from a Stop by some saline Concretions in the *Chole Duct*, has the fairest Pretence, which being removed by *Diureticks* and *Saponaceous* Deobstruents, the Bile has again its Passage to the Gut as formerly, and the Symptom ceases; whilst an essential or original Jaundice is more deeply rooted, as in the Substance of the Liver itself. For when this *Viscus* is grown scirrhus (*the consequence of drinking Drams and other spirituous Liquors*) its Glandules are unable any longer to seern the bilious Juice, or transmit the same by the *Porus bilarius* to its proper Storehouse the Vesica; any more than by the same to convey it to the said *Ductus Choledochus* and *Communis*, whence regurgitating into the Mass of Blood, it must unavoidably tinge all Parts of the Body; the Serum oversated with its Salts, no longer able to pass the Renal Filtration, returns also, and by its Acrimony as well as Plenitude, bursts open the containing Vessels, and raises a Dropsy sometimes (as the Doctor takes notice) *Hæmorrhages* ensue by the Nose and Mouth, by Stool and Urine, from the broken Texture of the Blood, which put an end to the Patient's Life; but a true *Vemica*, which is a Collection of Pus in the Lobes of the Lungs, contained in a Cystis, formed out of its vesicular Substance, accompanying this Disease, I have not met with, nor I believe

lieve the Doctor neither, however he has mentioned it among the Symptoms. This commonly ensues upon some large Tubercle apostematting, or has been the result of an Inflammation on the said Part, as in the Case of the *Peripneumony*.

We come now to the Cure, in which, as in all others, running counter to the common Practice, he sets at naught the usual *Anti-Icteric* Remedies, such as *Rhubarb*, *Turmeric*, *Barberry Bark*, with some others, which he mentions only to shew us upon what a weak Foundation Men venture their Lives; and when he has seen Gentlemen far gone at the Bath with this Disease, he tells us, he has been much concerned to think how small a Progress has been made in the Art of Healing.

Now to make up this Deficiency, and supply a better Method of Cure; having first reminded you of the weak and infirm Crasis of the Blood, and the as great Weakness of its containing Vessels, their Prone-ness, as he rightly observes, to let out the same by the Nostrils from the Vessels of the Head; by the Mouth from those of the Lungs; by Stool from the Intestines; and by Urine from the Kidneys: You are to give the Patient eight Grains of *Turbith Mineral* in Gruel or Possiet-drink; and if he holds out under the first Dose, repeat the same four or five Days after.

Would

Would not any Man think the Doctor must be mad, under such a Condition as well of the Solids as Fluids, to prescribe a Remedy so likely to tear both in pieces, and to bring on those very Hæmorrhages he describes so fatal to the sick. He seems indeed aware of Mischief by the Shock, and therefore to close the Breach, if it should fall out, he directs his Acid of Vitriol between whiles. Who can appear unmoved at such notorious Practice? as fatal in the End as a Stab into the Heart or Lungs.

*N.B. There is no Miracle set down here, as it must have been, had any Cure been wrought in an hepatic Icterus by this Method.*

### *Of the Stone.*

The Stone, it seems, *is an exquisite Pain, on the Ureters or Neck of the Bladder*; as if they meant one and the same Thing; or if not, I desire to know which of the common People (*for whose Use this Book was written*) knows where his Ureters are seated; or will be able to distinguish the Complaint from a Cholick Pain? Or how is the young Physician (*if any such were mad enough to take our Author for his Guide*) to difference this exquisite Pain on the Neck of the Bladder, from an Ulcer on the same Part, than which nothing is more common.

mon. There is still somewhat more remarkable on this Head, *viz.* that we have not one Word of the Stone in the Kidneys, or any of its *Diagnosticks*, but only of the *Ureters* and *Bladder*, which nevertheless he terms *Nephritis*; an Indication some will say of his Ignorance of the *Etymon* of that Word, his very definitive Term; else surely he would not substitute a Disease peculiarly appropriate to the Kidney, for one of the Bladder. Concerning which, neither has he given us one univocal Sign, by which rightly to discriminate from the Ulcer aforesaid, of the same Part: *None of the dribbling, interrupted Stream, or full Stop, especially pissing in the erect Posture; the Slime and Mucus often proceeding; the pinching of the Penis in young Children, upon their Needings to the urinary Excretion, particularly towards the Extremity; the inverted Posture of their Legs, which they frequently cross under their Agonies; their straining backwards also at the time of their Needings forward; with many other Incidents in their Gestures and Behaviour at such times, to guide an Artist in delivering his Opinion, where the Search by the Catheter will not be admitted, or the Stone so situate as to escape it.* Among these give me leave to add one communicated to me many Years past, by those two famous Lithotomists *Cyprianus* and *Groenvelt*, that *they had never observed an adult*

adult Person who had a Stone of any considerable Bulk, more especially a rough one, that would ever sit plumb down, as other People, upon any wooden Bench or Chair ; but leisurely and with Caution, looking as it were behind them ; for that in such Site of the Body, the Stone gave Uneasiness by its Pressure towards the Perinæum.

As to the Cause of this Disease, the cold Stomach, with hot Reins, Crudities or Indigestion ; these are all Words of Course ; both Procatartic as well as Proximate, being very much a secret and hidden from us ; the cold Kidney with the hot Stomach and good Digestion, (*if the Stomach has any Share therein*) have afforded Instances of this Distemper, the Bladder having little Blood, is consequently, *Cæteris partibus comparatis*, cold : Yet here, tho' the Nucleus drops down from the Pelvis of the Kidney, the *Stratum superstratum* is accumulated from the Matter, whatever it be, *Pblegmatic* or *Slimy*, *Saline*, *Terrestrious* or *Tartarous* petrifying therein.

There is no one will deny but that a weak Concoction of the Stomach, an unactive Life, course and viscid Aliment, whether Meats or Drinks, may predispose : Yet we find that People of quite differing Constitutions, and in differing Ways of Life, are prone thereto ; and that Children, whose Diet is commonly the most simple, are the

most

most common Subjects of the Disease, at least in whom the *Primordia* thereof are laid, and in whose Bladders the fabulous Particles begin to grow lapidescent.

Some will have the Matter of the Gout to bear affinity with that of the Stone, whether in the Bladder or Kidney; but certainly without Reason or Foundation; the first being *Cretaceous* and friable, the last hard almost as the Fossil, whence it is denominated. 'Tis true, that gouty People are sometimes afflicted with this Disease, from their unactive Life, and often tedious Confinement to their Beds under their gouty Paroxysms; whence the calculous Matter being detained and accumulated, may lay a Foundation for another more cruel Disease than the former. But neither is this a constant or standing Rule, because many gouty People, altho' long time confined thereby, are free from the Stone.

It is his Opinion, that the Stone coming down from the Kidney, immediately *adheres to the inward Membrane of the Bladder, where, like a Snow-ball, it gathers the finer part of the Sand, till at last separating from its Cystis, it falls down upon the Neck of the Bladder.* And now (saith he) *there is nothing to be done without Lithotomy.*

As to which, altho' there have been some few Instances of this Adhesion, I am inclinable to believe nineteen out of twenty  
Stones

Stones taken out of the Bladder, never did adhere, but always lay loose from the time of their falling through the Ureter thereinto, if they had not their *Prima Stamina* therein, as their regular Coats and Incrustations seem evidently to demonstrate.

But I fear I have detained you too long in these Remarks, which were to shew the confused Idea our Physician has of most, if not all the Diseases, of which he here offers an Account. We will now hasten to his proposed Cure, in which you will find him alike inconsistent even with his own *Indications* for the same; but before I touch thereon, I should have been glad he would have acquainted us with his *Menstruum*, which, he says, will dissolve the Stone held in one's hand; but *that the force of a Medicine is lost before it can reach the Bladder, that round about Way by the Blood.* Yet if his *Menstruum* be harmless, he could not be ignorant surely of a direct Way to the Bladder, by the *Catheter*, through whose *Cannula* from a *Syphon*, the same might be injected thereinto; but I fear his *Menstruum* is like many of his other Medicines, too dangerous for the Experiment.

“As to the Cure of this Disease; he  
 “*rightly observes* there is little good to  
 “be done unless by such Remedies as lu-  
 “bricate, that is, soften, dilate and smoothe  
 “the Passages; it is a common Method

D

(he



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(he says also) "to give strong *Diureticks* ;  
" but these, by their Irritations, will rather  
" contract the nervous Coats of the Ure-  
" ters, and do hurt."

Now in order to lubricate these Parts,  
you must give your Patient a large Spoon-  
ful, *half an Ounce at least*, of the *Bals. Ca-*  
*pivi*, in a Glass of Wine, (*mix it how you*  
*can*) than which as there are not many more  
powerfully diuretic, so few that have great-  
er Heat and Stimulus ; whence instead of  
lubricating, they must absolutely more in-  
flame and corrugate those nervous Coats.  
*Caveat Aegrotus hic, & ut a tali Medico,*  
*in Casu tali, liberetur, precat.*

His Pigeons Gizzards and Peach-flowers,  
gathered to Perfection, are surely by much  
the safest ; and as they seem not calculated  
to do much good, so neither will any harm  
accrue thereby ; which is more than I can  
say of the generality of his Remedies.

" These Peach-flowers, he says, he has  
" known to do extraordinary Things in the  
" Gravel, and equally beneficial to gouty  
" Persons ; but that an Ounce of Quick-  
" silver taken every Morning for a Month,  
" will perform still greater Wonders :"  
and so it might for ought I know, if it  
reached the *Ureters* ; but I have not yet  
heard of any of our mercurial People that  
have met with it in the Chamber-pot.

*Of the Palsy.*

He is now entering (as he tells us) upon nervous Diseases, and begins with the Palsy, of which there are several Species, very easy (*according to this knowing Man*) not only differenced, but explained. The first he takes notice of is

*The Hemiplegia.*

This he enters on with a Flourish concerning the Munificence of Nature, or her  
 " Bounty in having made a double Provi-  
 " sion for us of two Eyes, two Ears, two  
 " Kidneys, &c. that in Case the one should  
 " be injured by some Accident, there might  
 " be another left; and amongst the Dua-  
 " lity he forgets not that we have two  
 " Testes, about which the old Gentleman  
 " makes a smutty Reflection, concerning  
 " the *Mahometan* Women.

The Disease when recent, is soon cured (according to him, tho' not so deemed by others, who know more of it) by such Remedies as open the Obstructions of the Nerves, that the animal Spirits may recover a free Passage, and the Sense be restored to the Parts. How and by what means these Nerves come to be obstructed, what these animal Spirits are, or how Sensation is per-  
 D 2                      formed,

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formed, he prudently conceals. His Master *Sydenham*, who; I dare say, knew as much of these Diseases as he, being once asked, why he had not treated of them in the same manner as of other Chronic Diseases? answered, because he did not understand them. As to the Cure, *he blisters the Arm, the Leg, and Thigh of the Side affected.* A wonderful Concession this! from a Person who takes no notice of them in many Cases where they are as much indicated; and in some where he cries out against them, tho' contrary to our daily Experience of the great Benefit resulting to the Sick from them. His Remedies are *Mercar. Dul. and Cinnabar of Antimony*, and one very good one taken in great part from *Dr. Sydenham* \*, from whom had he copied all the rest, and left out his own, he had bequeathed a much better Legacy to his Countrymen.

Here is one Miracle wrought upon an old Gentlewoman in *London*, the only one, I suppose, he had to produce in this City: he could give us more, it seems, but they are at some Distance from *London*, altho' many of his Wonders have been wrought in much more remote Places.

Every candid and fair Practitioner, who keeps a just Register of his Practice, will send us to the Dead as well as to the Living;

\* See *Sydenham* of the Gout.

that

that is, they will tell us honestly where their Method failed them, as well as where they had Success. Nor is it any Disparagement to the best Physician, if two or three out of four or six, should, under these difficult Cases, sink under his Direction. But our Miracle Mongers will not let us know one Word of these Miscarriages; their Design being to insinuate into the People's Heads, that no Person can die where they have the sole Management. Does the Gentleman think that any Physician of his standing, tho' of much larger Experience, is not able to give him five, I might say ten times the Number of sick Persons recovered under this Distemper? When perhaps two or three times that Number, through the Violence thereof, without any Reflection upon his Judgment, have been taken off thereby.

*St. Vitus's Dance*

Admits the same Cure with the *Palsy*; and according to this *learned* Man's Observation, *never wears off without proper Means*. A great Discovery this! tho' I have known more Children recovered by the Cold *Bath* than by all other Means whatever; and it should seem the Doctor had found no proper Means for the Cure, or had never met with the Disease unless in Books; for we have not one Miracle recorded.

*Of the Apoplexy.*

A Disease, he allows very remarkable as well as fatal; yet in a Course of forty-seven Years Practice; he has, in so very common a Disease, met with no more than two.

He begins his Account with informing us, *that whatever affects the Head must be either Inflammatory, Convulsive or Accidental, as from Contusions, Bruises, and the like;* as if Contusions were somewhat more or less than Bruises; and he might with equal Truth have said, whatever befalls the Tail, must arise from the same Causes. For besides others, there is nothing more common than to have serous or watery Humours, as well on the outside, as on the inside of the *Cranium*, laying often a Foundation for soporose Distempers. Phlegmatic Humours falling in upon the Origin of the Nerves, as in the Palsy, and the Disease before us, may at some times destroy the Patient without either *Inflammation, Convulsion or Contusion.*

There are two Causes he tells us farther of this Distemper, *Blood extravasate in the cortical Part of the Brain, or Convulsions obstructing the animal Spirits.* In the first he may be right, but not always; in the last he places the Effect for the Cause; for there must be supposed some Cause of these  
Convulsions

Convulsions, whether *Repletion* or *Inanition*, or a *Vis irritativa*, offending some Parts of the *Genus Nervosum*. As to the particular Part of the *Cerebrum* or *Cerebellum*, affected in these Diseases, or the real Cause, producing them; I am well satisfied we are much in the dark. In the Heads I have dissected, which to the best of my remembrance have been five or six, in one (a very sanguine Person) there was Extravasation of Blood; in one other a large Quantity of Serum only, in the Ventricles; in the rest, tho' the Vessels of the *Pia Mater*, seemed as it were distended; yet I found not otherwise the least of any Extravasation, or any Thing else discernible, that could thus instantly eclipse the vital Function, and put an end to life, tho' I carefully turned over the whole *Encephalus* for that End and Purpose.

The Cure of this Disease, he attempts by what he calls *high Bleeding*, then gives *Merc. D. with Cinnabar of Antimony*, made into a Bolus with Conserve of Hips: A likely Medicine to be swallowed by a Person under a Fit of an Apoplexy! Whilst he mentions not one Word of *Blistering*, *Cupping*, *sharp Clystering* or *Vomiting*, which in phlegmatic Habits, does more than all, to rouse the torpid Senses, and make Revulsion from the Head. We are to suppose, the two *Apoplecticks* the Doctor was

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called to, died of this Disease, or else doubtless we should have had an Account of the Miracle wrought upon one or both.

#### *The Falling Sicknefs.*

If the *Apoplexy* is difficultly understood, no less certainly is this Disease. The *Diagnostick* Sign, or what distinguisheth this from the former and all other Convulsions, our Physician will have to be this, *that the Patient always falls backwards*: Whether or no this is to imply that the Apoplectic falls forwards, I know not; but have given an Instance \* elsewhere of a young Gentlewoman long afflicted with *Epileptic Paroxysms*, falling forwards upon the Grates of a Stove, and miserably burnt thereby: and upon Enquiry I never could understand but that whatever Posture the Patient happened to be in at the time of Seizure, the Body fell that Way where the Overpoise thereof most favoured or directed.

Tho' we have no Wonder wrought here any more than in the former, yet bating some of his Descriptions of these nervous Diseases, he has formed a better *Rationale* for the Cure, however exceedingly defective in some prime Indications, than in most of the rest.

\* *De Morbis Cutaneis* Chapter of Burns.

*Hypochondriacal and Hysterical Diseases.*

The History of these Diseases is borrowed from *Sydenham* ; I wish (as I had said but now) he had pursued him in his *Methodus Medendi* ; instead of this, he is cavilling only at Physicians, who, he says (but says it at random) that they begin the Cure with *Bleeding, Purging, Vomiting and Blistering* ; after that in the same loose Strain, he acquaints his Reader, they have recourse to *Fontanels, Steel, Bitters, Opiates and the like*, all directly contrary to the Practice, he means the Description (*for there is not one Syllable of any Practice entered*) he has set down. Steel in substance, he tells us, is very pernicious to human Bodies, witness the daily Benefit *Cachectic* People and *Chlorotic* Virgins receive by it ; but if Steel in Substance is so very pernicious, is it not very strange our Physician himself should prescribe it ? as you will find he has done in his Chapter of the *Dropsy*. *Bitters rarely have their desired Effects. Opiates only palliate, and at the same time give deeper Root to the Disease. The last Remedies are Bath Waters, and these, he owns, are really good to repair decayed Spirits.*

When he has thus rallied the Physicians, he sums up the whole with this wonderful Discovery, *that the only help which can be administered,*



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*administred, must be by Deopplatives, Strengtheners of the Stomach, and such as help Digestion without any Evacuation. As if Steel Medicines and Bitters were out of this Class, or prescribed by Way of Evacuation. When Nature is redundant, you are to give half a large Spoonful of Mynsicht's Elixir Vitrioli in half a Pint of fair Water, or of Eaton's Styptic, when deficient, Salt of Steel with Extract of Rue. Thus without any Notice taken of the Gums, either in Substance or Solution, Castor, Volatile Salts or Spirits; which do more in suppressing the hysterical Suffocation, and reducing the inordinate Motion, the Ataxy (as he calls it) of the animal Spirits, than all the rest; he concludes with a very idle Remark, that the Indians in the Molucca Islands, and the Ladies at Smyrna, take Quicksilver, an Ounce every Day, to prevent Barrenness.*

Tho' here was as fair an Opportunity to have set down his *Neuroticks, his Deopplatives, Strengtheners of the Stomach, and Helpers of Digestion*; yet finding doubtless he could not give us any better than were in common use, he prudently conceals them, as well as the Notice of any wonderful Cure he had effected by them.

Of

*Of the Greensickness.*

From his Account of this Disease, we are to suppose the same, in great Measure at least, derived from *strait Lacing*, and the eating of ripe Fruit. By the first the Juices of the Stomach are depraved, by the last *Vermicular Ovaria* (as he terms them) being lodged therein, are vivified, which he concludes must be the Case, for that the most offensive and most dangerous Species of all *Vermine*, are not visible to the naked Eye; and hence with a Caution to his Countrywomen, that they would follow the Example of those barbarous and savage People where he has been (and by his Carriage to others one might think had been brought up) in not suffering their little Ones to be laced, he gives leave for their eating as many *sour Apples, Pears and Plumbs*, as they please, in order to destroy the vermine Parents of this Distemper, who hone thus after the Leather of old Trunks, Woollen and Linnen Rags, Cork, Nutshells, and almost every Thing that a healthy Stomach (where none of these Ovaria have made their Nidi in order to vivify) would really nauseate.

Having laid down this Theory of the *Greensickness*, 'tis no wonder he should declaim upon the Virtues of *Quicksilver* therein,

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therein, and bring two eminent \* Vouchers for the great Virtues (tho' not in this Disease) of one of its Preparation, the *Æthiops Mineral*. After this he acquaints us with what no Man in his Senses will believe one tittle of, *that many thousand Subjects are lost yearly to the Crown, by the taking of Gascoin's Powder, whereas Quicksilver, he does over it for Gospel truth, never hurt one Patient; and giving us another Flourish upon the Virtues of Acids in Fevers, as great Coolers, keeping the Fluids pure and free from Corruption, powerful against cutaneous Defilements; he concludes this Chapter of the Green-sickness in the following manner.*

*I know no Method more proper than what is here laid down; that is, unripe Fruit and Quicksilver, where Nature is wanting.*

If any Man can produce such a History either of *Cachexy* or *Chlorosis*, since the Infancy of Physick, as is here set down, I should be surprized: What a dangerous Guide is here for young Practitioners, bigotted to this new fangled Method of Practice? What Injury to private Families must accrue by such Advice in regard to their Daughters over run with this Distemper? Where instead of Vomiting first of all with the *Ipecacuhanna*, to unload the

\* *Freind and Cheyn.*

Stomach,

Stomach, and scour its pluffy Coat of the phlegmatic *Saburra* therein impacted, and after by some *Aloetick* Remedy, such as the *Tinctura Sacra*, to warm the said Part, and at the same time to move gently the remaining Filth by the common Road of the Intestines: instead of opening the obstructed Tubes, by inciding and attenuating Medicines, such as the Bitters; and, lastly, instead of strengthening the Tone of the Blood, as well as that of the Fibres in general now torpid, dull and languid, scarce able to propel the Fluids through their several Canals, by *Chalybeats* added to those Bitters; they are to administer *Acids*, which by their Coldness and Stypticity, must fix the Malady and render the Disease incurable. Whether this be moving according to his boasted Maxim of *Contraria Contrariis*, whilst he is directing a cold Remedy to a cold Malady, let himself determine: And whether or no what we have here said of *Acids*, may not also be applied to his *Quicksilver*: Which however capable of dividing viscid Humours, yet neither strengthens the muscular Coat of the Stomach, nor gives additional Heat thereto; very prime Indications under the present Consideration.

The last Summer I was called by Mr. *Pretty*, an Apothecary in *Shoreditch*, to visit a Neighbour's Daughter, about eleven or twelve

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Belly, raise flatulent Ferments therein, with spasmodic Affections on the Membranes. They heap up crude and indigestible Humours in the Viscera, as well as Vessels thereof; they straiten and cramp the Chest. I was once called in to a Person, who from reading the Doctor's Treatise, had hastily gulped down a large Spoonful of the Vitriol Elixir, and tho' sufficiently diluted, was thrown thereby into such an Algor, attended with universal Rigour and Spasm at the Mouth of the Stomach, as had endangered Stagnation, if Nature had not slept between and instantly returned the greater Part before by the Lacteals it had got in the Blood; and I think I may say the only fatal *Chlorosis* I have met with, was brought on by drinking large Quantities of Vinegar, which had impoverished the Blood and hardened the Bowels, so as to spoil all the Secretions, till at last a Dropsy of the Belly, Thighs and Legs came on, and carry'd off the Patient. What I observed in this Case as remarkable, was, upon the Application of Blisters to the inside of the Legs, the Water which drained off thereby in large Quantity, had more of an Acrid or Sour than of a Salt *Sapour*.

" All animal Corruption, he tells us,  
 " turns to Vermin; and the same in vegetable Putrefaction. Now ripe Fruits  
 (pray

When the Gentleman tells us, that ripe Fruits breed Worms, he seems to be on the Side of *equivocal* Generation, which the *Univocalists* (of which Number I profess myself) deny, and assert that neither ripe Fruits, or any other putrify'd Matter, Animal or Vegetable, can breed a living Creature, but only afford *Matrices*, where through Instinct, each Insect lays her Eggs, as a proper Place to hatch their young, as also to afford them Nourishment after they are brought into Light as well as Life. Each Mite on a small piece of rotten Cheese, where some Hundreds are seen moving by the help of the Microscope, we believe had an *Ovulum* whence it sprung: Nor should the Exility thereof be any Objection, since Man himself before embrionated, is an invisible Punctum. And if Vegetables putrified, afford Nidi for Insects, the same do Vegetables in Perfection; the Flowers of some, the Leaves of others, the Fruits and

E

Seeds

E

## Seeds

Seeds again of others, give Instances enough of these, where the Parent Animalcule or Insect, having dropt its Ovula, leaves them for the stated time to hatch, which by the wise Providence of Nature, most commonly falls out when Nourishment and Life together are provided for them.

But this Piece of Natural Philosophy is foreign to our present Task; nor had I touch'd thereon but for the sake of our Physician's Doctrine of the *Ovaria*, and his *Putrefaction breeding Worms*, as likewise his Hypothesis that the *Greensickness* is *vermicular*; from which false Premises he has drawn his Conclusion, that the same is to be cured by *Acids* and *Quicksilver*.

It is in this Chapter, he takes the liberty to inveigh against *Gascoin's Powder*, as occasioning the loss of many Thousand Subjects yearly to the Crown; averring, on the other Hand, that the *Quicksilver* never did any harm to the Patient. Which two Assertions demonstrate certainly as much Prejudice on the one hand, as Ignorance on the other. As to the first, I may appeal I think to all the Physicians in *England*, if not in *Europe*, if it is possible (even upon a Supposition that it did no good) to hurt either Man, Woman or Child, in any Fever whatever, or at any time of such Fever; which is more I think than can be affirmed of any other Antefebrile Remedy now or heretofore in common

common Use. This I assert of the whole Composition, under the Name of *Pulvis e Chelis Cancrorum Compositus*, vulgarly *Gascoin's Powder*. If the Gentleman means the *Bezoar* only, tho' it may hurt the Pockets of the Poor, I may assert the same as of the rest of the Ingredients, that it cannot hurt their Bodies; nor has it ever added so much as one to the Bills of Mortality, notwithstanding his Comparison thereof to the other animal Concretions, as Gall Stones, or Stones in the Bladder of Urine. 'Tis a little odd, that where he thinks it may serve a Turn, he is ready to appeal to *Dr. Radcliff*, as in the Case of Blistering so commonly in Fevers, I do not say in the *Anasarca*, for here he tells us, the Doctor killed one of the King's Gardeners by these Remedies, whom otherwise in all probability he himself might have had the Credit of sending out of the World by a Horse Purge, a Spoonful of a diagregiate Electuary; but if *Dr. Radcliff* may be appealed to here, no Man so fond of the Ingredients of this Composition: *Chela Canc. Oculi Canc. Coral. Rub. and Margarit. pp.* were *instar omnium*, as well in acutes as chronical Diseases. These, as *Dr. Strother* says, were (to my Knowledge also, who have seen many Hundreds of his Prescriptions) his *Panpharmakon*, *Gascoin's Powder* and *Goa Stone*, which is not half so good,



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were his Remedies in Fevers, even of the worst Sort ; and as the first of these has been for many Years held in the greatest Esteem, by the best and most learned Physicians of the last Age, among whom his Master *Sydenham* himself, who prescribed the *Bezoar* both *Oriental* and *Occidental* together therewith, (*See his Account of the continual Fever in 1661, &c.*) so it is yet deemed the safest, and is the most frequently prescribed Remedy in Fevers, that was ever brought into the medical use. On the other hand as to *Quicksilver* he is averring what is scarce possible to be known at all times. He is affirming what is false, as we have proved by many Instances, and as I fear in a little time, whilst the People run mad after the Experiment, we shall be able to prove by many more.

Before I quit this Chapter of the *Green-sickness*, there is one Remark which I think necessary to make, as a Caution to the young Practitioner, which is, that a *Hectick* has been sometimes taken for a *Chlorosis*, and a *Pthisis* hastened by the *Aloetic, Bitter and Chalybate Remedies*, successfully used however in this last. The streightness of Breath, want of Appetite, with the Pulsation, especially at the time of the febrile Exacerbation, accompanying both. Whenever therefore a *stubborn Cough, flushing in the Cheeks, stitches about the Sides or on the Breast,*

*Breast, recurring Fever, heat on the Palms, dry Skin, Colliquation by Sweat or Stools*, appear, you must be cautious of adding any such *Stimuli* to the already over-heated Lungs, or inflamed Mass of Blood; but change the same in time for the *Testacea* or *Absorbentia*, free and repeated Bleeding, where the Strength allows, and the Pulse indicates, with the Milk Diet.

The same is to be observed in the menstrual Obstruction of young Women a little farther advanced, where by pushing for the return of Nature, or bringing the *Menses* down, in those who never had them, by the hotter Gums, Bitters, Chalybiates, and others, called *Emmagogues*, in a declining State of the Body, many a *Hætick* has been brought on, and the Death of the Patient hastened by the Indiscretion or Inadvertency of the medicinal Undertaker.

I might observe farther one Particular in this Distemper, that altho' both Boys and Men are subject, by irregular Living, and want of Exercise, to a *Cachexy*; yet neither are the former liable to the true *Chlorosis*, nor the latter to the *Citta, Malacia* or *Pica Pregnantium*; an Indication surely of some uterine Ferment, imbuing the Blood and Juices of the Stomach, thus early (even some Years before the *Menses* break down) disposing to these vitiated

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Appetites in the Girls, as after their Suppression in the Women.

*The King's Evil.*

If I was over-long in my Observations upon the last, I intend to be as short in this; where I shall only take Notice, that however his Description is incomplete, and the Instance he gives thereof as much out of the Way, yet his Method for the Cure is one of the best he has laid down, and as likely to do some good, as many others we have had communicated for so stubborn a Malady.

*Elephantiasis Arabum.*

By his loose and inconsiderate Discourse on this, and the following Diseases of the Skin, 'tis plain he knows very little of their Nature, and much less of their Cure; otherwise he could not make so light of one of the most obstinate Diseases that afflict Mankind; tho' few I think of us or our neighbouring Countries, have felt its Severity, or know it otherwise than by the Description we meet withal in Books. However, our Physician says it is *vermicular*, and assures us as confidently (*as in many others*) tho' Salivation fails, yet it will yield

to Remedies no ways violent; but what these Remedies are, for some prudent Reasons he thinks fit to conceal, and has kept out of his noble Legacy; nor have we any thing of the miraculous wrought, for Confirmation of the Cure.

*Lepra Græcorum*

Which he says is rarely cured; for that the Cause is generally mistaken; that the *Physicians have generally believed it owing to some Acid.* I can assure him I was always of Opinion, and I think all I have conversed with, that it arose from a saline Humour, however acrid, lodged in the cutaneous Glandules, not fitted to the Make of the cuticular Pores, for the same Perspiration as other Humours; or at least hindered by the Density of the Cuticle from so perspiring. The flying Pain of the Muscles in this Distemper, or their Inflations, I own I never met with; and I dare say I have seen ten of these *Greek Lepers* (if I may borrow the Term from the Country the same is called by) to the Doctor's five; so that I never found Occasion for the pressing down those Muscles, either by the Weight of Water, much less to trip up the Patient's Heels, and then kneeling upon his Limbs, as the Gentleman advises, in order to reduce them.

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Nor can I say I ever knew the Cold Bath do half the Service of a warm artificial one, prepared of Sulphur, Salt of Tartar, and some other Ingredients. But I shall leave you to judge if I have not said enough in the four or five first Chapters of my Treatise concerning the Skin Diseases, to excuse any thing I need offer here, or to compare the same with this insignificant *Rhapsody*; among which he has jumbled in another as little to the purpose, about *Inoculation*; however, would he speak plain Truths, or discover to us any thing truly useful, we knew not before, we might excuse the Method which he takes in the delivery thereof. *No more Miracles wrought yet a while,*

### *The Branny Itch.*

This is so called, he gives us to understand, from the branny Scales rubbed off by scratching. It is indeed a Symptom of the former Illness; nor do I know of any other which furnisheth that Quantity of furfuraceous Desquamation, found between the Sheets of these People, rubbed off in the Night; no wonder therefore it should admit of the same Cure,

*The*

*The Itch.*

The *common Itch* (saith he) is *absolutely vermicular*, allowed so to be even by the *Illiterate* (who must surely know best) and confirmed to the *Literate* by the *Cure*, i. e. by *Mercurial Ointments and Lotions, Quicksilver Girdles*, and we know of nothing that so infallibly destroys Worms as *Mercury*.

By this Gentleman's Way of Reasoning, we must allow the *Asthma*, the *Stone*, and sundry other Diseases, where he advises the same to be taken, to be also *vermicular*; but if the Itch be a *vermicular* Distemper, then Sulphur or common Brimstone has the same Pretension to kill Worms as Quicksilver, being the most common, and I am sure much the safer, for the common People to meddle with. I may certainly say where five are cured by this last, there are fifteen by the first.

Whether or no the Itch be *vermicular* I cannot say; or that the troublesome Sensation arising thence, be owing to the *Animalcules* irritating the *Nervous Papillæ* of the *Cutis*; but I am sure the same Disturbance attends certain other Affects of this Part, without a Supposition of this *Hypothesis*. I have examined some of these cuticular Pustules, by good Glasses, as well as the *Ichor* thence diffused, without this Discovery

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covery of *Vermiculi* therein; tho' I shall not deny the Possibility. There is nothing strange that the *Ovula* should be drawn in from the very Air we breath, taken with our Food, and conveyed therewith, *i. e.* the Juices thence extracted into all Parts of our Bodies, where meeting with suitable *Matrices*, they may be hatched and fostered. Nor will I deny but that they may be lodged and detained in the Pores of some nasty People, where finding *Pabulum*, they multiply and spread over the whole Surface of the Body, and communicate Infection by a deposit of their *Seminalia* upon the Parts of the Sound with whom they shall converse; but, mistake me not, when I say I deny not the Possibility of all this, yet I must own myself dubious as to the Fact before us. It is already granted, when we consider the Exility of Things in themselves, and that our Senses were not given us so much for the Discovery of their Realities, as their relative Properties, *Quoad Nosmetipsos*, many Things may be, and we find are, whose *Modus* is difficult to come at. We have no reason to question but that every Seed, how minute soever, contains a *Plantula Seminalis*, as I may say, in *Miniature*, invisible to the Eye, even assisted with Glasses, so every living Creature, *Animalcule* or *Vermile*, call it which we will, must have an *Ovulum* for its

its Origin, that as the former is set to work in the dilating its before unseen or hidden Parts, by a fœcundating Principle from the Earth, where it is sown; so the latter by the prolific Power of the Male, or something equivalent, in the Conjunction of different Sexes, after which the plastic one is set on work, in delineating or drawing out the *prima stamina vite*.

You will pardon I hope this Excursion, which I have been drawn into by the *Hypothesis* of *vermicular Diseases*. I shall now return to acquaint you, that coming to close up his Account of the *cutaneous*, he tells us he shall now proceed to give us a Description of those which are *acute*, and immediately subjoins the following *Recipe*, as if belonging thereunto.

*Take one Quart of Spring Water, one Dram of Sublimate, &c.*

'Tis very apparent through his whole Treatise, he is not of the Sect of the *Methodists*; and we might forgive his Quackery if he would quack safely. Use this three Nights, (*saieth our Physician*) and you shall be well, *i. e.* possibly (*for it will not I can assure you always answer*) of one Disease, and sick of a much worse after; but as to this I shall refer you as before, to my Discourse upon the same Distemper; and the Danger of these Remedies in some infirm Constitutions.

*Of*



*Of the Plague or Pestis.*

I forgot to acquaint you at our first setting out, that as almost all our Writers in Physick, when they make use both of the *Latin* and *English* Denomination of the same Disease, begin with the less known first, and then by way of Expletive for the Use of the unlearned, enter the *English* thereof; so our Physician running counter to all others, as well in Method as Practice, enters first of all his *English* Epithet or Term for the Disease; and then by way of Explanation, the less intelligible to the unlearned, his *Latin* one.

Thus he begins with the *Gout* or *Arthritis*, the *Dropfy* or *Hydrops*, *Tympany*, *Tympanites*, *Consumption* or *Phtisis*, he means *Phthipsis*, *Jaundice* or *Icterus*, and so of all the rest; first, as I before observed, the more known Term, and after the less; but I proceed, and as to those under this Denomination, whether *English* or *Latin*, I thank God first on my own Account, and after for the sake of my Fellow-Citizens, that I know little thereof unless from Books, which have delivered their Histories down to us. When they prove instantly fatal, as some we read of at their first Attack, the Seat of the Disease must surely

surely be rather in the nervous Genus, the Spirits, than in the Bosom of the Blood it self, whence those Spirits have been filtered as I may say or secreted; the malign Miasms first impressing those subtil Parts, as should seem by the Symptoms themselves, the *Horripulatio*, extreme *Languor* or *Deliquium Animi*, the *Palpitation*, *Vertigo*, *Vomiting*, which take rise from the irregular Dispense of the said nervous Fluid from the Brain to the vital Parts. And while the Case stands thus, I cannot see any Remedies so likely as the truly Cordial or *Alexipharmick*, to answer such vital Indication; nay, admit the Impression had fastened on the Blood, and began to excite a *Luctus* therein, (*I would be understood to mean a feverish Effervescence*) unless there was *Plethora tam ad vires quam ad vasa*, manifest by the intense Heat, and over-bearing Pulse, I must own, I should be shy of the Remedy, upon which this Gentleman lays the Stress of the Cure; whilst I endeavoured to assist Nature in a way less hazardous, *i. e.* by the more temperate Regimen, the *acid Diaphoreticks*, rather (at such times I must own) than the *fery Alexipharmicks*, unto which, where the Blood is already too much inkindled, I am as much an Enemy as this Gentleman can be. At the same time I cannot say, unless very rarely, that I have met with one

Fever

Fever which I thought deserved the Name of a *Febris Mala Indolis*, such as many of our late Eruptives, whether *Rashy* or *Milliary*, but more especially *Petechial*, where I found a Pulse (had other Circumstances answered) to encourage this Evacuation, or by which I should not have thought myself guilty of *Homicide*, had I attempted it without Success.

Where the texture of the Blood is broke by the contagious *μιάσματα*, as often appears in the gangrenous Disposition of its whole Mass, the colour of the Spots, the bloody Excretions from the several Parts; when the Pulse flags, and Nature no longer able for want of vital Energy dispensed from the Brain, to continue its wonted Rythm or Vibration; when the whole Purple Mass is turning to a black and putrid Gore, or a stagnating Grume, this drawing of Blood seems to me, tho' not *Corio*, yet *Sanguine humano ludere*. I shall never pretend to argue against Facts, and we have been told strange Stories by Travellers, (*who they say have Authority to tell many such*) of wonderful Escapes this Way, and Enterprizes made otherwise, still more desperate. These, I say, and the like hazardous Experiments, fitter indeed for a Mountebank, who has none to lose, than for a rational and honest Physician to risque his Reputation by the trial, have served only to convince

convince me, that as there are many diseased Persons, whom the most understanding and judicious Physicians cannot cure; so there are some few whom the most ignorant Empirick cannot kill.

I think the Doctor had much better have left out his Bravado of having taken two Cities by Storm, unless he thinks it an Honour to a Physician first to kill and slay, and after to plunder the Innocent, those who never wronged him, and to carry off the Spoil. A good Prelude this to the Bloodshed after, among his own Men.

This trial of lavish Bleeding under a pestilential Fever, it is likely he may have borrowed from his Brother Soldier, mentioned by Dr. *Sydenham*, as related to him by Colonel *Wyndham*, the Doctor himself, as it should seem \* came into the same Way of Practice, as finding it sometimes to succeed: But could we find one half of that steady Observation, or of that Candour and Sincerity in the Legacy, we meet with in this worthy Man's, how fond soever of his cold Regimen in Fevers, (from which he relaxed considerably before his Death, brought off doubtless upon farther Observation of the Danger thereby, especially under unskilful Hands) from so great an Example we might possibly pay more re-

\* See *Sydenham* of the Plague.

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gard thereto. That Gentleman tells us, he had observed all the Symptoms of a φλόγσις in the Blood of the infected; *that the Fever was truly inflammatory; the Blood sizy like that of Pleuriticks; and wanted only the Cough and Pain in the Side, to determine it to that Species; and consequently as meer Plenitude and Rarefaction was the greater Part of the Disease, Inanition or Depletion of the Vessels was to be the Cure.* Our Doctor, on the other hand, says, *he found his Men seized with Languor, insomuch that they were not able to move. Without any farther regard, he orders his Surgeon to bleed them in both Arms, and to go round to them all, with command (for he was now, I perceive, their commanding Officer as well as their Physician) to leave them bleeding till all were blooded, and then come and tie them up (a fit Term indeed for an Executioner) in their Turns. Thus, saith he, they lay bleeding and fainting so long, that I could not conceive they could lose less than one hundred Ounces a Man.*

I will now appeal to any Gentleman conversant with *Phlebotomy*, if this is not the most random Calculation that was ever made by Man? Or if any two Persons, much less an hundred, can ever lose an exactly equal Quantity in equal Time? If there be not so much depending upon the Momentum of the Blood, the Force of the

the Artery or Strength of the Pulse, the Dimension or Size of the Orifice, its Direction in the Vessel to that in the Skin, which by Pronation or Supination of the Limb, will affect the Current; the Situation of the same also as to Flexion or Extension; the Ligature overtight or slack; the Habit of Body sanguine or phlegmatic, or the Temperament naturally hot or cold; the *Idiosyncrasy* of some as to Courage or Fear, as well as customary Swooning without Fear, for which no Account is to be given, with other Incidents I could name; whether, I say, from one or other of these Impediments, it is not possible one may not lose above ten Ounces, another scarce five, a third five and twenty, a fourth fifteen, and so on in the like Disproportion. Nor do I think a quarter part will bleed that Quantity, especially where the Spirits are knock'd down as it were with a pestilential Venom, before *Leipothymy* comes on, and the Stream slackens, if not wholly stops. This Tale may amuse the Ignorant; but I dare say no Surgeon who has been foiled to get away ten Ounces from one, and as much to restrain the Flux in another, will believe one Syllable of this hundred Ounces a Man.

“ Dr. Sydenham, doubtless upon some Mis-  
“ carriages which had befallen him by this  
“ Method of Practice, tells us plainly, tho’

F

“ his

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“ his private Judgment ran that Way, yet  
 “ the Diffipation of the pestilential Venom  
 “ by Sweat, pleased him much better \* on  
 “ many Accounts than the Evacuation of  
 “ it by bleeding; first, because it does not  
 “ weaken the Patient so much; and, se-  
 “ condly, because it does not hazard the  
 “ Physician's Reputation.” But this also,  
 faith that faithful, Observer of Nature's  
 Motions, and of the Nature of her Dis-  
 eases, has its Inconveniencies; meaning  
 some Persons sweating with Ease, others  
 not unless with Difficulty. Our Doctor,  
 on the other hand, without weighing the  
 Genius of the Fever, or the Nature of the  
 pestilential Ferment, the Strength or  
 Weakness of one Man above the other to  
 undergo the profuse Discharge of the Treas-  
 ure of Life, however imprest by some  
 malign Aura, much less any Regard to  
 Reputation, cries out only *durus Nodus, durus*  
*Cuneus*; and then at once to the Slaughter-  
 house.

Had the Tars dy'd, or sunk any of  
 them, under Syncopy, so as never to re-  
 vive, he could have told us their Lives lay  
 at his Mercy; or that if they had not ex-  
 pired *Cruenti*, they must have done so *Pe-*  
*stilenti*; and where was the Harm in trying  
 an Experiment whether he should cure or  
 kill them?

\* Ibid.

In

In our last great Plague in *London*, when the Sickness grew too hot to hold the generality of Physicians, as well as the more wealthy Citizens, Dr. *Sydenham*, however he stood the Shock of its first Approach, yet at last says, that by the Persuasion of Friends, he accompanied great Numbers of the best Inhabitants into the Country; tho' before he went and upon his early return, which was some Weeks before the same was ceased, he had experienced the Advantage of large bleeding, and like others (*possibly too much wedded to an Opinion*) imputes some Person's Deaths, not to the bleeding simply, but that the Patient did not lose a sufficient Quantity. What I am surprized at, is the Appeal of this learned Man to the Physicians who continued in Town when the Disease raged, whether they observed that large bleeding, and often repeated before any Tumour appeared, was the Cause of any one's Death who had the same?

To this worthy Gentleman, upon this Appeal, we can do no less than confront the learned Dr. *Hodges*, who stood the Storm throughout, when in the Year 1665, a time when the City had little more than one half of the Inhabitants it has at present, if half that Number, not less than 68596 deceased thereby: This Gentleman, I say, who was not only a constant Looker



on, but as constant in his Visits to the Infected, after he has described its Nature so far as he was able, with its manner of Seizure, and the attending Symptoms, in delivering what he observed in the Way of discharging the pestilential Venom out of the Body, when having recited some others, and coming to this particular Evacuation, he delivers himself thus \*.

“ And, lastly, the morbific Matter is  
 “ not of that kind to seek an Escape at  
 “ the Orifice of a Vein to run out with the  
 “ flowing Blood, and which (as before  
 “ proved) affecting chiefly the Spirits, and  
 “ residing in other Vessels, makes this  
 “ Method of Cure in a Pestilence imprac-  
 “ ticable. I will not however deny but  
 “ that there may be Circumstances in some  
 “ malignant and pestilential Fevers, which  
 “ may justify Phlebotomy, as when it is  
 “ done for the sake of Revulsion in too  
 “ great Flux of the Menstrues; but in a ge-  
 “ nuine Pestilence it is not to be meddled  
 “ with; there is but one as I can remem-  
 “ ber, who survived it in the late Sicknes.  
 “ But it is needless to say more upon a  
 “ Subject so plain, and therefore I shall pass  
 “ on to what is of more Consequence.

I would gladly reconcile these two honest Men (*for of our Doctor I can think no other than at best, as of a very rash one*)

\* See Quincy's Translation, p. 154.

which

which I can do no otherwise than by the following Method: That Dr. *Hodges* observing Venæsection in small Quantity, or improperly timed, as when the Tokens, as they were then called, were at hand; or Nature was busied in raising Bubo's, axillary or parotide Tumours, the Patient certainly died. Dr. *Sydenham*, on the other hand, going early to work before the critical Eruption, and bleeding even to Deliquium, took the Work of Secretion of these morbid Particles out of her hand, eliminating them at once by the profuse Discharge of the same.

Before I quit this Subject, give me leave to communicate Dr. *Hodges's* Prophylactic, with a short Epitome of his Practice, at that dismal time, if not for Instruction, for Entertainment.

An antient Apothecary, very conversant with the Doctor, I might say almost always his Companion, as he told me above forty Years ago, in visiting the Sick, assured me they had often taken four or five Gills a piece of the choicest Canary, in taking their Rounds, before they returned home to Dinner; and that the Doctor, when he was got *ad Hilaritatem*, would enter without Fear into many infected Families, where he durst not accompany him; but rather chose to wait at the Sack Shop, as he called it, till the Doctor returned

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from his last Visit for the Forenoon, and brought him his Orders.

It was their Custom to see their Glasses well washed with the best White-wine Vinegar; and having taken each their Quarter of a Pint, to drop their Money into a Vessel of Water, placed for that purpose; so that in all likelihood they might each drink his Bottle of this Nectar daily, between the Hours of rising and laying down to Rest.

“ The Doctor says himself, that so soon  
 “ as he arose in the Morning, which was  
 “ very early, (*having no doubt a Multitude*  
 “ *of Business on his hands*) he took the  
 “ Quantity of a Nutmeg of his Anti-pesti-  
 “ lential Electuary, which he has entered  
 “ with some others of his Preservatives a-  
 “ gainst the Contagion; and after the Dis-  
 “ patch of private Concerns in his Family,  
 “ he went into a large Room, where  
 “ Crowds of Citizens were always waiting  
 “ for him; and there he commonly spent  
 “ two or three Hours, as in an Hospital,  
 “ examining the several Conditions and  
 “ Circumstances of all who came thither;  
 “ some of which had Ulcers yet uncur'd;  
 “ others to be advised under the first  
 “ Symptoms of the Seizure; all which  
 “ saith he) I endeavoured to dispatch with  
 “ all possible Care to their various Circum-  
 “ stances.

“ As soon as the Crowd could be dis-  
 “ charged,

“ charged, I judg'd it not proper to go  
“ out fasting, and therefore got my Break-  
“ fast; after which, till Dinner time, I vi-  
“ sited the Sick at their Houses, where  
“ entering, I had immediately some proper  
“ Thing burnt upon Coals, and always kept  
“ in my Mouth a Lozenge whilst I was exa-  
“ mining them; but those are under a Mi-  
“ stake who report that we us'd very hot  
“ Things for Alexipharmas, as Myrrh, Ze-  
“ doary, Angelica, Ginger, and the like,  
“ by which many deceived themselves,  
“ and rais'd Inflammations on their Ton-  
“ sils, and endanger'd their Lungs.

“ I farther took Care not to go into  
“ any of their Rooms when I sweated, or  
“ was short-breathed with Walking; and  
“ kept my Mind as compos'd as was pos-  
“ sible, being sufficiently warn'd by such  
“ who had grievously suffer'd by Unea-  
“ siness in that respect: and after some  
“ Hours visiting in this manner, I return-  
“ ed home. Before Dinner I always had  
“ a Glas of Sack (*he might have said three*  
“ *or four*) to warm the Stomach, refresh  
“ the Spirits, and dissipate any Lodgment  
“ of the Infection.

“ I chose Meats for my Table, that  
“ yielded an easy and generous Nourish-  
“ ment, roasted rather than boiled, and  
“ Pickles, not only suitable to the Meats,  
“ but the Nature of the Disease; and in-

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“ deed in this melancholy time, the City  
 “ greatly abounded with Variety of all good  
 “ Things. Neither did I rise from Din-  
 “ ner, unless rarely, without drinking more  
 “ Wine; after which, I had always many  
 “ Persons waiting, as in the Morning, for  
 “ Advice; and as soon as I could dispatch  
 “ them I again visited till eight or nine  
 “ at Night, and then concluded the Even-  
 “ ing at home, by drinking to Chearful-  
 “ nels of my old favourite Liquor, which  
 “ encouraged Sleep and an easy Breathing  
 “ through the Pores in the Night; and if  
 “ in the Day-time I found the least Appre-  
 “ hension of Infection upon me, as by  
 “ Giddiness, Loathing at Stomach, or Faint-  
 “ ness, I immediately had recourse to a  
 “ Glass of this Wine, which presently drove  
 “ these beginning Disorders away by  
 “ Transpiration. In the whole Course of  
 “ the Sicknes, I found myself ill but  
 “ twice, and was soon again clear'd of its  
 “ Approaches by these means, the help  
 “ of an Issue contributing, and of such  
 “ Antidotes as I always kept by me. As  
 “ to the use of such Issues, I can speak it of  
 “ my own Experience, that whenever I  
 “ was most beset with pestilential Atoms,  
 “ in the Course of my Business, I could  
 “ then immediately perceive a shooting in  
 “ my Issue, and had a great deal of an  
 “ ill conditioned Matter discharged thence,  
 “ and

“ and this I always took as a Warning to  
“ have recourse to my Alexipharmick.”

I will conclude this Chapter with the  
Doctor's Encomium upon his beloved  
*Nectar*.

“ Gratitude obliges me to do Justice to  
“ the Vertues of *Sack*, as it is deservedly  
“ ranked among the principal Antidotes,  
“ whether drank by itself, or impregnated  
“ with Wormwood, Angelica, &c. for I  
“ have never yet met with any Thing so  
“ agreeable to the Nerves or Spirits in all  
“ my Experience; that which is best is  
“ middle aged, neat, fine, bright, racey  
“ and of a Walnut Flavour; and it is cer-  
“ tainly true, that during the late fatal  
“ Times, both the Infected and the Well  
“ found most Benefit from it, unless they  
“ used it too intemperately.”

Thus you see by the foregoing Account,  
how these two learned Men differ in their  
Opinion in Matters surely of the highest  
Concern to Life, both countenancing a di-  
rectly opposite Practice, from Experience  
too, as they tell us, and Observation.  
Were I to swear *in verba Magistri*, as I  
shall, I think to no Man's, it would be  
*in verba Sydenhami*, as soon as to most  
others; but I can't persuade myself, some  
hap hazard Recoveries under one Species of  
Malignity, by such extreme Evacuation,  
will justify the like Method of Proceeding in

all others, or that the same is at any time to be attempted by every bold Empirick pretending to Physick, without all regard to the *Rythm* of the Artery, whether oppress'd by Plenitude or Rarefaction of the Blood, or depress'd purely, as we have formerly taken Notice, by the weak Dispense of Spirits derived from the Brain, or what we call the vital Energy, immediately from the Heart. *Repletion* we all know will bear large Ventilation, I mean Evacuation; but *Inanition* will suffer none without deadly Convulsions, under which all Persons that I have ever seen sinking by fatal Hæmorrhages, have expired. The Counter-force between the Solids and Fluids, or that from the Spring of the Blood itself inwardly, and the contractile one of the Fibres outwardly in the arterial Tube, are to be duly weighed; for here certainly as well as in other Things,

*Est modus—sunt certi denique fines,  
Quos ultra citraque nequit consistere  
rectum.*

Having thus wrought 272 or 3 Miracles (*for seven or eight were lost, not by the Bleeding but by their Mess-mates procuring for them strong Liquors*) by taking away a hundred Ounces of Blood from each Man, he concludes this Chapter with the following Observation, *That they had all*

of them Spots, which in the great Plague they call Tokens; that few or none of the Spaniards who had them escaped Death, but that his People who had them and Buboes too, escaped. Whether or no these Tokens and Buboes came out before or after their Bleeding, he remains silent. If they were out before, or upon coming out at the time of Bleeding, it was indeed a Miracle they should escape; and if they appeared after, it was surely alike miraculous. His Master Sydenham, how fond soever of large Bleeding before any Thing was discharged from the Blood into the Confines of the Body, would have called this intempestive Bleeding, not simply the cutting of Arms, but like that of cutting of Throats. Be this as it will, the Doctor was resolved they should be all cured unless seven or eight of them, and that by Bleeding too; for had he given them the celebrated Gascain's Powder or Bezoar, he makes no question at all, considering the Heat of the Climate, but he had lost every Man of them. *Risum teneatis?*

*Spotted Fever, or Febris Pestilentialis.*

From the Plague, the transit is very easy to the Spotted Fever, which he terms *Pestilentialis*; but if he would have had his expletive Term in the *Latin* (for he explains,



explains, as I have already observed, his bene nota per magis ignota) answerable to his *English*, it should have been *Petechialis*, which begins like the Plague, and has a double Crisis; that is, one less than the following; viz. first, the *Petechiæ*; and, secondly, the *Mutatio* (which is certainly the only proper one) *vel ad salutem vel ad mortem*.

Above thirty Years past, he says this Fever raged much at *Bristol*, where he visited twenty-five or thirty Patients in a Day, besides the Children taken into their Work-house, whom he found with Physick and Advice *gratis* for two Years (*a very charitable Action doubtless*.) All these poor Children had this Fever, yet no more than one died out of two hundred or thereabouts; so that here is near the same Number of Miracles wrought as in the foregoing; but the greatest of all is the following, which he calls an *Instance of a Person cured in an uncommon Way*, and so I dare say it will be allowed.

“ One *Thomas Hackett*, an Apprentice to  
 “ Mr. *John Scanderet*, a Grocer in *Wine-*  
 “ *street, Bristol*, labouring under this fatal  
 “ Fever, had a violent Hæmorrhage or  
 “ Flux of Blood at his Nose; notwith-  
 “ standing great Quantities were taken  
 “ from his Arms, and the most cooling  
 “ Medicines administered which could be  
 “ thought of, yet all was ineffectual, and  
 “ his

“ his Life despaired of; I ordered (saith  
“ our Physician) a large Vessel to be filled  
“ below Stairs with Spring Water; he was  
“ carried down in a Sheet and put into  
“ the Water; his Head was dipped several  
“ times, upon which the bleeding stop-  
“ ped. I believe he might continue in  
“ the Water a quarter of an Hour; after  
“ which he was carried to Bed, only co-  
“ vered with a Sheet: He slept well that  
“ Night; the Spots disappeared; he was  
“ very well only weak, and is now living  
“ in *Bristol*.” But of this Story as well as  
some others, you shall hear farther pre-  
sently.

“ This being a high inflammatory Fe-  
“ ver, he begins the Cure by taking a-  
“ way large Quantities of Blood; then  
“ gives his Gout Purge every other Day,  
“ and at Night a Draught with an Ounce  
“ or ten Drams of *Syr. de Meconio*. On  
“ the Days between his purging, the Pa-  
“ tient is to take the Quantity of a Nut-  
“ meg of the following very acid Electu-  
“ ary, at four or five a Clock in the After-  
“ noon (for here is nothing ordered for the  
“ Morning) and at Bed-time, washed  
“ down with a large Glas of fair Water,  
“ wherein is first put a Tea-spoonful (*a*  
“ *modest Dose this in comparison of what is*  
“ *customary with him*) of *Mynsicht's E-*  
“ *lixir Vitrioli*. “ Take Conserve of Wood-  
“ Sorrel,

“ Sorrel, of Hipps and Barberries, each an  
 “ Ounce, Cream of Tartar and of Tartar  
 “ vitriolated, each two Drams, Syrup of  
 “ Rasberries enough to make an Elec-  
 “ tuary.”

As to these Fevers, I can say very little more upon my own Knowledge of them than of the *Plague* itself, to which they belong; for I must distinguish the *Malignant* from the *Pestilential*; at least, I cannot think every malignant Fever to be such. Every pestilent Fever I take to arise from some morbid Disposition of the Air, inimical to Mens Bodies and contagious as spreading from one to another, during that particular Constitution; these we call *Epidemical*, of which also there are some much milder than the Pest itself: But what I call a malignant Fever, at least in common, has its Seat or takes its Rise from the evil *Diatheſis* of the Blood itself, or some Humour therein, predisposing to the Production thereof, and impressing the Spirits in a different manner from what happens in others of a more benign kind; neither is the same contagious, as the former. The *Petechial* Fever, I think, comes the nearest to a Pestilential; but I must sincerely declare that I have very rarely met with any such or other rash Eruptives which carry'd any Signs of Malignity, where I could see a probability  
of

of relieving my Patient by high bleeding, as the Doctor calls it, or indeed any bleeding at all, much less by purging him every other Day, and still less by *Narcotics*, as often repeated. When I have ventured upon the first of these, *viz.* Bleeding, it has been on the Account of some *Hæmorrhage*, or on that of violent Pain on the Side; yet even at these Times I have been so unhappy as not to have succeeded thereby. However, notwithstanding my averfeness to these Evacuations in such malign Eruptives, as well as the *Diacodium*, there are those under some Conditions of the Blood, with the dry scabrous Tongue and intense Thirst, wherein I should prefer his acid Electuary, and his Julep also *ex Aq. Font. cum Elix. Vitrioli* to the hot Regimen of *Mithridate* or *Venice Treacle*, with inflaming Juleps under the denomination of *Cardiacal Medicines*; but of this I have said enough in my *Discourse of Fevers*, and therefore shall pass on to his Chapter

### *Of the Flux Small Pox.*

Altho' we have few Writers upon this Distemper, who have not somewhat to say new thereof, either in dividing the Species, or attempting the Cure in a different Method, yet it must be owned that

that no Man has given us a more graphical Description of them than the most industrious *Sydenham*, from whom this Gentleman has taken every Thing that is worthy any regard in his Account of the same. The former describes them only as *Confluent* or *Distinct*, tho' between these there appears often a middle Sort, which from their near Approach to the Confines of each other, have been named *Contiguous* or *Coherent*. Indeed in the *Confluent* themselves, at the first appearance of the Eruption, unless it be the worst Sort of all, which we name the *Erysipelatous*; the Pustules appear distinct till toward their State of Maturation, when enlarging their Bases and filling with Matter, they burst into one another's Cells. If the Distance happens to be greater, tho' at their height, they lie close and contiguous at the Edge of one another's Basis, yet fall not foul, unless here and there a Cluster, upon one another, but preserve their *Involucra* separate for the greater Part. These two then, I think, differ no otherwise than *Secundum majus vel minus approximationis inter sese Gradum*.

Experience tells us, that the more they flux, especially on the Face, the greater will be the Danger; as carrying greater Malignity in their Nature, and from the worst Sort of which we have not many Escapes, because the Blood is so loaded  
with

with *varolous* Matter, that Nature is unable to get rid of it by the proper *E-munctories* of the Skin, and sinks for the greater part in attempting its Discharge by the Glands of the *Fauces* in the Way of *Salivation*, or by those of the Intestines, as in the *Diarrhœa* or Looseness.

The most favourable therefore and benign is the *Distinct*; and still the farther Distance they keep, or the fewer in Number, the better: Not but that (as you will find in my Discourse already referred to) there have been some even of these who have died for want of sufficient Heat, or the malign Nature of the Disease, to throw them out; but it is the middle Sort between the *Distinct* and *Confluent*, which our Physician calls *Anomalous*; altho' I think very improperly, since there is no more Irregularity in the Appearance of these (which gives that Denomination) than in the other two.

His Description of the confluent Small-Pocks is very extraordinary, and contrary to the common *Diagnostick* thereof. Upon the second or third Day at farthest, he says there appears an entire Blister from Head to Foot; which is untrue as to the Essence it self of the Disease; for we have many confluent Pocks on the Face; where in some Parts at least of the Body, they appear distinct. Blisters indeed will often a-

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rise in the most malign Species of this Distemper, both *Continuous* and *Contiguous* also; some as large as a Nutmeg, others as an Egg, implete with a brown or duskyish Serum, like those in the Gangrene it self, and indeed of the same Nature, often sphacelating the Cutis underneath: but one universal continued Blister over the whole Surface of the Body, is not the absolute Characteristick of the flux'd Pocks.

The next Singularity he presents us with, is that of his *Crises*, of which he makes as many as there are Stages or Advances thereof to the *Achme*: and thus we have a Crisis of Despumation, or Separation of the varolous Matter from the Blood; another for finishing the Eruption of the same; with a third for the Suppuration; and as his Crises, so likewise his critical Days must differ from others; the last whereof for the Distinct, he places on the eighth Day, the mildest Confluent on the eleventh, tho' there are of these that run out to the fourteenth, seventeenth and twenty first.

For my own part I cannot say, even in the most favourable Distinct, that the same was at the height or upon the turn, before the beginning of the ninth Day, according to the old Computation; and very often not before that of the tenth, always reckoning from the time of the first Seizure,  
not

not that of Eruption, which some have gone by in their Accounts; and in the mildest Confluent this Alteration will happen sometimes on the eleventh, at others on the twelfth Day.

Dr. *Sydenham*, who had observed as nicely the different Scenes and Shiftings of this Disease, as any Man who writes about it, says, that on the eleventh Day (speaking of the Distinct) the Tumour and Inflammation of the Face begin manifestly to diminish; an Argument surely that he had never observed the Maturation complete before the ninth or tenth; but then he farther justly takes notice, that as there are Symptoms protracting the Separation, so consequently the Eruption and Suppuration, by which Delay the Disease will run out a Day or two longer than its customary Termination; and consequently the Crisis of the same, which this Man has needlessly multiplied, as some he finds fault with, have done the Species; for strictly speaking no Distemper has more than one Crisis which is its absolute Conclusion towards the Recovery or Death of the Patient; *i. e.* when Nature begins to vanquish or to be vanquished thereby. All other Appearances are but her Steps or Struggles towards that final Conclusion, which according to the best of my Observations (as I took notice but now) in a genuine Pock of the Distinct

G 2



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Distinct Kind has seldom or never happened before the ninth, and which therefore, notwithstanding all this Gentleman has to say against it, will be with me the common critical Day for that sort. There are indeed what the Vulgar name the Chicken or Swine Pocks, which run their times of Eruption, Digestion and Desiccation also in five or six Days. But these, unless it be the Children of the better Sort, fall under no physical Discipline, nor need they any more than a light Purge at their going off.

Having finished his *Confluent*, which he calls *one continued Blister from Head to Foot*, with the coherent he terms *Anomalous*, and to which it seems alone the Salvation appertains, (*at least he mentions nothing thereof in his confluent Sort*) he comes to the Distinct, where he acquaints us little need be said; "for that although he has  
" heard of some dying under other Hands,  
" this wonder-working Physician has never  
" lost one; and the less (he says) is done  
" the better, for having but few, they  
" are never of a bad Sort, as if many,  
" they are never of a good one." As to which, I refer you, as above, to my Discourse on Fevers, where I have taken Notice of some which more deserve the Name of *Anomalous* than the contiguous or coherent ones of our Author's; such I mean

as the *Chrystallinæ*, *Verrucales*, *Siliquosæ*, *Papulæ seu pelliculæ rotundæ*, and others mentioned by Dr. *Freind*, in his Epistle to Dr. *Mead*.

When he has thus gone through the three most usual Species of the Distemper, but said not a Word of the Cure, the two first I suppose deserving, and the last requiring none, he presents us with a fourth (he met with surely in his Travels) which he calls

*The Spotted Small Pocks.*

“ These he describes with large red Spots,  
“ much like the confluent Kind, with the  
“ Face and other Parts very much inflamed;  
“ yet in twelve Hours the Patient shall  
“ become perfectly pale; the very middle  
“ of these red Spots turning to a black  
“ corny Substance, hardly so big as a large  
“ Pin’s Head; of this Sort, in forty odd  
“ Years, he tells us, he had observed no  
“ more than five.” I will not say he has  
had all to his own Share; but unless he  
means the *Verrucales* mentioned by Dr.  
*Freind*, there has not fallen one to mine,  
with the Apex only a black Punctum, the  
rest of the Pustule pale or white. *Pete-*  
*chie* are frequently interspersed in the  
most malign Confluent, and some I have  
seen settle on the Pock itself, even upon  
G 3 those

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those which have been coherent. These are often attended with Hæmorrhages by the Nose, Mouth, Stool, yet oftener by Urine. But to have each Pock thus spotted at its Summit, is still more rare, and deserves the Name also of *Anomalous*, much better than that to which he has given the same. There is indeed a very fatal Sort, where the Skin of the whole Face and Hands appears white like a piece of Parchment. *Sydenham* calls it *Instar pergamensæ*, without Inflammation either of the Pustules or their Interspaces, which are very common; the former of these represent the *Folliculi pisorum*, the same with Dr. *Freind's* *Siliquose*. I never go through *Forestreet* by *Moorgate*, where there are several Pease-porridge Shops, with heaps of these empty Husks on Platters set upon the Stalls, but I am sure of calling to mind this Species of the Small Pocks, to which they have a most exact Resemblance. Were I to coin Names for Diseases, as our Doctor, who is finding fault with others at the same time for doing so; I would call these the White, to distinguish them from the Brown of the benign coherent, or the Black of the malign, as well as of the confluent. And being thus unexpectedly entered upon Colours, I must inform you of what this Gentleman is pleased farther to observe in regard thereto, that there is lately brought

brought in among us another Species called the *Honeycomb Small Pox*. As to this I know of nothing more than what his Master *Sydenham* (from whom he has taken that of the Looseness in Children answering the Salivation of the Adult in the confluent Sort) long since remarked, not as denoting any particular Species, but to remind us of a very great Truth, *viz.* that the nearer the Pock approaches in its State of Maturation to the Colour of a Honeycomb, the securer the Patient is of his Recovery; and another very just one he has made before this State, as to that of the Interstitia or Spaces between them, when the Inflammation is at the height, like that of a Damask Rose; and that in general the milder and more genuine the Pocks are, the nearer will they approach unto these two Colours, at those particular Times.

When the Pellicle in the former Sort appears full of a clear or transparent Humour, it constitutes that Species, named thence *Crystallinae*; when of a browner, *aquosa vel serosa*; if but half full of such Humour, *Semi-plena*; if pitted on the top or dented in, as often happens from an imperfect Digestion of the Humour, *Concava*; when perfectly empty, *Vacua*; when distended only by *Flatus*, as in those above-mentioned like the empty  
G 4                      Hulls,

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Hulls, *Vesiculæ flatulentiæ*. Among these you must have observed a Pock approaching towards the State, half full of a wheyish Humour, with these Dents or Sinkings down of their *Apices*, which the next Day will be elevated; and soon after the said Humour turning to a well concocted *Pus*, terminates the Distemper in the Patient's Favour: So that upon the whole I have made no scruple to deliver my Opinion in the former Treatise already referred to, that all these differ little otherwise than according to their greater or lesser tendency from a State of Crudity to a more or less perfect one of Concoction or Maturation; or, as they happen to prove of a more benign or malign Quality or Disposition, requiring suitable Regimen, *i. e.* such as shall be thought most proper for aiding or assisting Nature in bringing them to that Perfection they should or ought to attain \*.

After he has given us this confused History of the Disease, he enters his Cure for the spotted Small-Pox, for which you will see little Occasion, since he owns himself he could never carry one to the first critical Day; but the same Method doubtless is to serve for all of the confluent Sort, whether truly such, or those he calls *Anomalous*.

\* See the Discourse on Fevers, p. 310.

"In this (saith he) I bleed in large  
 "Quantities, ply the Patient with cool  
 "Tankards: (*a very acceptable Physician*  
 "*surely*) every Evening I give an Ounce  
 "or an Ounce and half of Syrup of *Dia-*  
 "*codium*, and three Hours after it, if he  
 "cannot sleep, so much more; I sharpen  
 "all his Liquors with Spirit of Vitriol,  
 "and on the seventh Day I order *Mercu-*  
 "*rius Dulcis* and *Cinnabar of Antimony*,  
 "each half a Scruple, made into a Bolus  
 "with any Conserve; the same on the  
 "thirteenth. When the last critical Day  
 "is over I bleed again to about twelve  
 "Ounces; the next I give my Gout Purge,  
 "and in the Even of the same Day, a *Dia-*  
 "*codium* Draught.

To another, under his *Anomalous* Pocks,  
 he tells us, that "no *Ptyalism* coming on,  
 "he gave Quicksilver, which not answer-  
 "ing, and the Patient continuing in *ex-*  
 "*tremis*, he resolves to make a Child of  
 "him, and to purge him to eight or ten  
 "Motions (*which it should seem, he can do*  
*when and as oft as he pleaseth, neither a*  
*Stool over nor yet under his determined*  
*Number, knowing with another famous*  
*Man, how to square a Purge to each Con-*  
*stitution*) "every Day till the Danger of  
 "the Disease is past."

I have here laid down the Method, that  
 you might see upon how slippery and un-  
 certain

certain a Foundation this Gentleman builds the Cure; and judge whether it be not likely to do more Mischief with *Mercurius Dulcis*, *Cinnabar of Antimony*, *indiscriminate Phlebotomy*, *Narcoticks* and *Gout Purges*, in these early Stages of the Disease, than by administering of *Gascoin's Powder*, which he says has slain its Thousands, nay its tens of Thousands.

I am sure I need not use Arguments with a Person of your Experience, to prove the Danger of such Remedies, in the beginning of this Distemper; which is absolutely putting Nature out of her Way of bringing this morbid Fruit to its Perfection. Children do not bear *Narcotic* Medicines, even in the smaller Quantities, so well as the Adult; nor ought any such to be given even to the last, before the Eruption is finished, if possible to be avoided, or before the putrid Fever (*called the second*) is beginning to come on.

If I can retrieve all the loose Sheets of some Memoirs of Practice in this Disease for twenty Years past (as I have done some of them) in order to compleat my History of the same, I doubt not being able to present you with a Plan thereof, much better established and confirmed by Observation, than this of our Author's. There is indeed scarce any acute Illness in which it behoves us to be more diligent in ob-

5

serving

serving Nature's Steps in the Progress of the Distemper through all its Variations, than in this before us, in which I know some bold Men by stepping out of the Way, have at some times acquired great Applause from the Ignorant. Such a one as this I perceive was made by our Physician in a Case given up for lost by another, especially if bleeding should be enterprized upon her, in expectation of a Rescue thereby from Death. The Doctor ventures boldly, well knowing she could but die, altho' she recovered, contrary to the Prognostick which had been made by that other, if we may take our Physician's Word for the same. And thus, Sir, it will happen, tho' many have forfeited their Lives to rash Experiments, some few Examples may be given of those who have escaped thereby, not so much from Judgment, as an *unforeseen* Incident in their behalf, of which the Enterprizer makes no small Advantage, who would have all imputed to his Cunning and greater Penetration into the Nature of the Disease, than of those consulted before him, and who differed in Opinion from him. I remember it was an early Observation of a great Man in the Faculty \*, that if a Mountebank saved but One only out

\* Dr. Edw. Brown.



of Ten, that One would be ready at all times to spread his Fame; for the Dead could tell no Tales: But if the Physician did not recover Nine of the same Number, he would be deemed Ignorant, nay, it is odds (*saith he*) if the Friends of the singly deceased Person do not reflect upon and arraign his Judgment. How often do you not see the Bold and Ignorant push, where the Learned and more Prudent dare not risque their Credit?

As to Bleeding particularly, in any Stage or at any Time of this Malady, I have formed to myself the same Judgment as of the Bark, that where the Type of the Fever is regular in its periodical Returns, there can scarce be any *contra* Indication to its use; so is it in the Case of Bleeding even at any time of this Distemper, where there is great and violent Inflammation on the Membranes, producing Pleurisy on the Side, Peripneumony on the Breast, or Phrenzy on those of the Brain; here, I say, Bleeding in large Quantities at once, or repeated in the smaller, till the Symptoms go off, is justifiable Practice; which is more than I dare say of giving a purging Medicine before the State of Maturation, where that State is like to be accomplished, or till we have good Reason to believe Nature has done all she can that Way,

*Of*

*Of the Measles.*

After the foregoing Account of the Small Pocks, he comes to speak of the Measles; wherein he has certainly betrayed as little Knowledge in their Nature as in the Cure. He does not, it seems, remember any one's dying thereof, till about twenty-five Years past, when by the help of *Gascoin's Powder* (or possibly our Ignorance of the *Effects of Quicksilver*) and bezoartick Bolus's, together with Blisters and a hot Regimen, the Disease is become as mortal as the Small Pocks.

Had this Gentleman thoroughly looked over his Master *Sydenham's* Observations of one certain *Intemperies* in our Atmosphere, favouring at some times one certain epidemic Fever, at others a different one, at least in some of the Symptoms attending: One Year a benign *Small Pocks* or *Measles*; some Years after a quite different Sort, malign and very fatal in Comparifon of those which went before; he would have known that the Measles of the Year 1674 were of this last Kind, and differed much from those of the preceding Years, in their dangerous attending Symptoms. Indeed, many Years since that, had he been as faithful and diligent in his Register of the  
reigning

reigning Epidemicks, as that worthy Man, he might have found a Season within his own Account, when this Disease swept away great Numbers of little ones, and some few grown Persons, without the help of *Gascoin's* Powder (many of them) or bezoartick Boles; had he known any thing of this Sort of *Measles*, he would not have fixed its Termination at the fourth or fifth Day, nor yet always at the sixth or seventh, tho' generally speaking it finisheth its Course about the first of these last.

Those who are acquainted with the Nature of the malign Measles, or such as I so term from the inflammatory State of the Blood, beyond that in the milder Species, must know, that the Fever attending is truly *Peripneumonick*, and to be treated as such; witness the dry Cough and *Dyspnœa* accompanying; Bleeding repeated as the Symptoms are urgent, is here as necessary as in the Pleurisy itself; Blistering also, let this Gentleman say what he pleases against it, is a most excellent revulsive. *Linētus's* ex *Ol. Amygdal. dul. cum Syr. Papav. Errat. Sperma Ceti* Mixtures, and all the soft Pectorals; also *Sal. Prunel.* with Emulsions ex *Amygd. d. cum Sem. fr.* with whatever may bridle the inordinate Motion of the Blood, and abate the Inflammation thereof, are the whole of the internal Regimen, unless

unless Clysters of Milk and Sugar or the Syr. Viol. may be wanted between whites, under a costive Belly.

'Tis I am sure within the Time he has set, this Disease was so very epidemical that I myself have bled seven Children the same Day, hard labouring for Breath under the *Peripneumony* attending; four of which escaped, and three were taken off *cum anhelitu difficili*. In the behalf of *Belzebub*, as our Physician is pleased (from Dr. *Baynard*) to term the *Cantharis*, every one who escaped I well remember had a Blister running on them for some Days, which contributed, I am fully satisfied, towards the relief of the Cough, and *Dyspnea*, as well as the attending Fever; two of those who died had none; nor was one Grain (I verily think) of the truculent *Bezoar* prescribed for either; oily Mixtures with *Sperma Ceti*, Pectoral *Ptisanes*, with lenient Clysters, and repeated Venæsection making the whole of the medicinal Regimen. These Fevers very frequently ran out into *Hecticks*, the Cough continuing; and unless the Country Air with the As's Milk and Absorbentia, took place, the Patient at long run was destroyed by a true *pulmonary Phthisis*.

Whilst this Man of great Judgment informs us, there is nothing more required in  
this

this Disease but to give the Child ill of the same, a little *Diacodium*, than which under the great Difficulty of Respiration, nothing can be more likely to strangle them at once, especially where no Blister is applied, that may in some measure obviate the Danger. But surely it is very strange that our Physician, who is so fond of his high and repeated Bleedings in all other inflammatory Fevers, says not one Word of any occasion thereof in this, wherein oftentimes the principal Relief consists.

The present Constitution, viz. *March 1733*. affords us an Example of a Measly Fever as epidemical as that before mentioned, even Mortal beyond the Small-Pox itself, as I find by a weekly Bill I have just now taken in, by which it appears that between *March 27* and *April 3*, there have died of the Measles twenty-five; of the Small-Pox twenty-one; since then of the Measles forty, Small-Pox sixteen.

#### *Of the Scarlet Fever.*

After the *Measles* he placeth the *Scarlet Fever*, and, as if they were of Kin, instead of joining them to the mildest Species of the Small Pocks, which they much more resemble, he enters the Swine or Chicken Pocks, we have already observed :  
In

In this there being no room for the Doctor, he says the Patient is to use the same Means as for the Measles, that is, *Diacodium* in the beginning, and Purging duly after them.

*The Erysipelas.*

His Distinction of this Disease by the Greek Appellation, and that superstitious *English* one given it by the Roman Catholics, is without foundation. He tells us, where it happens in the Face, it is named *St. Anthony's Fire*, but if upon other Parts, *Erysipelas*; both Names being promiscuously used by the Surgeons, and no other than the first of these by the common People, be the Situation where it will: 'Tis here he mentions his high Bleeding and frequent Purging, altho' the true and exquisite *Erysipelas*, seated particularly about the Head and Face, requires the utmost Caution as to both. Bleeding at these times has been disputed by good Artists, upon the Authority of *Hippocrates*, that is, for fear the bilious Humour shall be called back into the Blood, and revert upon the noble Parts, where it may kill the Patient. *Erysipelas ab intra, foras, bonum; sed ab extra, intus rediens, pessimum.* Upon this Account they have chose by gentle cordial *Diaphoreticks*, to promote the Perspiration of the

H                      Humour

Humour by the Skin, and to make Revulsion for the Security of the Brain (where the Distemper appears about the Head and Face) by Blisters, both behind the Ears and upon the Shoulders, of which the Doctor takes no Notice, altho' the principal Remedy, under this particular Situation of the Disease; concerning which you may please to consult my first Volume and first Section of the Skin Diseases, whilst I take notice of the next.

*The Peripneumony,*

Which should have followed the worst Sort of the measles Fever, having the same Symptoms, bating the Eruption and requiring the like Method of Cure in every respect, *viz.* high Bleeding as he phraseth it, at least repeated in the smaller Quantities, till the Symptoms go off, and Blistering also, notwithstanding his Opposition thereto; his Liniment and his Lambative are allowable, leaving out the Spirit of Vitriol, which by straitening the Bronchiæ and corrugating the nervous Fibrillæ, will rather cramp and stiffen, than soften or relax those *Vesiculæ*, concerned as well in Inspiration as *Expiration* of the Air, to and from the Lungs.

*The*

*The Pleurisy*

Is, according to this Gentleman, the one half of a *Peripneumony*. I shall not deny but where there is Adhesion of the Lobes of the Lungs to the *Pleura*, or of their outward investing Membrane to the inward one of the Ribs, there may be a consent of Parts, that is, I mean by the Inflammation communicating from one to the other; but these do not often fall out. The *Peripneumony*, strictly speaking, is an Inflammation of the Lungs, as the *Pleurisy* is upon the Membrane whence it has its Name, viz. the *Pleura*; and he might with as good Reason have told us, that the first of these is one half of the last, as this last of the first. But this, it seems, is not the only Discovery he has made in regard to the Disease, of which, he says, he never knew any one die, unless for want of Bleeding. In this, I must own, I can give no more Credit than to that of his Definition; for tho' I never durst run such Lengths myself, I have seen some others pursue his Practice, yet without success; unless he would have the whole Mass exhausted, which may be done by *Arteriotomy*, but not always by *Phlebotomy*: When he has one Way to come off, by acquainting us, that the Patient did not die of the



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*Pleurisy, his Disease, altho' of the Bleeding, his Remedy.*

*The Quinsy.*

The Learned, according to this learned Man, make not three Species, but rather three Degrees of this Distemper, viz. *Cynanche, Synanche* and *Parasynanche*. He might have heard of others who have made four, and given the following Names, viz. *Synanche, Parasynanche, Cynanche* and *Pararachynanche* \*, of which, if they would make any Thing, they must make *Species*, and not *Degrees*: the latter implying only the more or less of the same concomitant Symptoms, upon the same specifical Distemper. But I perceive our Physician is entirely ignorant of the Nature or Essence of a true *Angina*, by his Description thereof; *which is that of an Inflammation of the Tonsils and Glands about the Throat; as also of the Muscles of the Windpipe and Gullet; so that swallowing of any Thing is totally obstructed.* The former of these, viz. the Inflammation of the *Uvula, Tonsillæ* and backward Parts of the *Fauces*, than which nothing is so common upon catching any Cold, as they call it, with some People, is no part at all of this Di-

\* See *Blanchard's Physical Dictionary.*

stemper;

temper ; neither yet the Tumour on the external Parts, whether of the *Larynx* or *Pharynx*, which by compressing the *Arteria Aspera* or Windpipe, impede the Respiration, and constituting that Species we call *Notha sive Spuria*, are neither yet the true *Angina*, which is an Inflammation on the internal Muscles of this Part, named from its Cartilage, *Arytænoides*. This Muscle, with its Fellow, as Dr. Keill rightly observes, running upon the upper Part of the Cartilage *Arytænoides* internally, forms a Sphincter for contracting the *Rimula* of the *Larynx*, and which being tumefied or inflamed, the Passage of the Air to and from the Lobes of the Lungs, is wholly precluded or intercepted, and the Patient suffocated or strangled in few Hours, however still able with some Difficulty, to swallow his Liquors, and could he take Breath, would let them down as before. I had the last Summer a Patient labouring under this true *Angina*, where the Bronchotomy was performed, tho' without its wished for Success, (*the Impediment lying below the Cannula*) by that ingenious Artift Mr. Nourse, Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's. The Patient, tho' stifled for want of Air, made shift to get down a Quantity of Liquor, and lived thus four or five Days taking that little Air he had, thro' the

Pipe introduced between the Rings of the *Branchus*.

This Disease, as he rightly observes, requires as high Bleeding as any. Blistering also behind the Ears, *vel ad latera colli usque extendentia*, and between the Shoulders (whatever he may think thereof) is as highly necessary. I once took three-score Ounces the same Day at three several times, from a Patient labouring under this Dilemma through the same Orifice. The next Day the Oppression still encreasing, I intended to take so much more from the other Arm ; but after drawing off about thirty at twice, the Pulse flagged, and I could get no more, tho' I endeavoured at the former Orifice where it ran out the first Day plentifully ; that which encouraged my going thus far, was, my Patient thought he breathed somewhat better whilst the Stream was running ; but finding himself faint after the last bleeding, the Blood stopt, and he survived not more than two Hours, tho' he was perfectly recovered of the *Deliquium animi*, which gave me no little Comfort in obviating a Reflection otherwise that I had killed him by Bleeding, not his Disease, which I endeavoured to take off thereby, and which left me only the Satisfaction of having done the best I could to save  
Life,

Life, which was not lost, I think, as this Gentleman insinuates in that of the Pleurisy, for want of Bleeding.

For the furthering of the Cure, he presents us with two Gargarisms; the one from Sydenham, a very good one, prepared of *Plantane and Frogs Spawn Water*, beat up with the Whites of Eggs and Syrup of Mulberries; the other from the Devil, or some Spirit, as malevolent to the good of Mankind, who first put it into the Head of our Physician, prepared of *half a Dram of sublimed two Drams of Cremor Tartar*, dissolved in a Pint of Water.

### *The Rheumatism*

Is, according to our Physician, a high inflammatory Fever, although in his Chapter of the Consumption, he denies any chronical Disease besides, to be attended with Inflammation. That the *Rheumatism* is *Chronical*, at least runs out beyond the Stage of any acute Disease, is evident by many Instances of such as have been not only several Weeks but Months confined, thereby unable to stand or move from the Bed to the Fire-side; but if the Disease be so highly inflammatory, we might have expected surely from our Physician, that high Bleeding must have been the Remedy; especially the Blood being in the same

H 4      condition

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*condition with that of Pleuriticks, or rather more sily than in any other Distemper. It swells the Parts where it comes, and the Pains are more tolerable in the Day than in the Night. As to which, tho' I have found some scorbutick Pains, and those we call nervous Rheumatisms, where there is no appearance of any Swelling, but much more the venereal, heightened by the Heat of the Bed, yet in the humoural Rheumatism I never found this Difference between the Night and the Day, as to the Patient's Complaint. The greater Pain may possibly, by the Amusement in the Day, be at some times less heeded, whilst the lesser, by the Stillness of the Night, and Loneliness, is more taken Notice of: But now to the Cure; and since bleeding even to one hundred Ounces, or more, (as he justly remarks) has been found of no Use or Service, what is to be done, unless by taking of eight Grains of Turbith Mineral made into an Electuary, (tho' I suppose he means a Bolus) with a Dram of Conserve of Hipps, and at Bed-time an Ounce or an Ounce and half of Diacodium; the first being to raise the evil Spirit, the last to lay him; the next Night his Gout Sweat, of which before; then he is to be thrown into the River, where tho' he can stir neither Hand nor Foot, he may swim or sink; I mean, Sir, (that I may not wrong the Doctor) he is to be*

be put into the *Cold Bath*; and if, as in some States of this Disease it may fall out, he is not killed by the Experiment, he has his Chance of coming out a great deal better or a great deal worse.

The Disease is doubtless to be treated as inflammatory, by Lenients, and a soft cooling Regimen in general, like the Pleurisy, bating the Evacuation by Bleeding, as the Doctor rightly observes, unless the Breast or Sides are affected with the Disease; but I cannot think the Shock of a Turbith Vomit, however it may revel from the Joynts, by any means suitable to the Condition of a poor Creature, who is incapable of moving a Straw's breadth either Hand or Foot from that part of the Bed he is laid on, especially should any part of the Trunk be therewith affected. Where the Pains are fixed on some particular Part, there is nothing gives that Relief as a Drein of the sharp Humour vellicating the Membranes, by an Epispastick applied upon the same; nay, where they are fleeting I have followed them this Way from one Limb to the other, and in few Days set the Patient at liberty, who had been tied down many Weeks before to his Bed; nor have I known any who made not light of the smart of the Blister, in comparison of the more torturing one from the Disease. This Way, I can assure you, I have frequently

frequently given Ease and procured quiet Nights, where *Diacodium*, which I have long since left off, as only fixing the Complaint, has availed nothing.

*The Ague.*

From the Rheumatism, as this Gentleman takes his Tour, his next Stage is the Ague; which after much Pains and Study, he has discovered to be a *nervous Fever of the acute Kind, as the Consumption is an inflammatory Chronick; but tho' it be a Fever it does not proceed from an inflamed Mass of Blood, as all other Fevers do, but from an Ataxie, (i. e. an inflamed Mass of Spirits) or violent Motion of the animal Spirits, which you must understand causes as great a Degree of Heat, as if the Blood were in the most exalted Fermentation, all Heat being nothing else but the Effect of Motion.*

*Again, for you shall have another touch of this Man's Philosophy concerning this Distemper; Physicians, saith he, have been very much at a Loss, (and what they will gain by this Discovery I cannot see) to find out the Cause and Seat of this Disease, being, as was observed before, a nervous Fever, it must proceed from the Brain; otherwise how is it possible it should keep its stated Periods, so as to come at the same Hour,*

*Hour, every Day, every third or every fourth, as it certainly does, reckoning the Days inclusive; whereas in an inflamed Mass of Blood, the Fever always continues, till the Inflammation is wholly taken off, and then the Fever ceases without any return.*

May we not cry out with the Philosopher, who was exploring the unknown Cause of a different Phænomenon, *εὕρηκα, εὕρηκα, nunc est inventum, vel nunc saltem clarior e tenebris.* This Gentleman is certainly ordained to find out the Longitude; he does not (it must be owned) place an *Archæus* in the Stomach, with *Van Helmont*, but has with another as great an Enthusiast, set up a King call'd *Microcosmeter*, in his Palace the Brain, who keeps an Alarm-Bell in the Turrit or uppermost Part thereof, where no sooner does that go off which is set sometimes for each Day at the same Hour, sometimes each other, or possibly each third, but strait a Detachment of little Bodies called Animal Spirits, issue out from distinct Parts, when meeting about the Confines they skirmish together, and raise a great Disorder in the animal Machine, till the one Party being vanquished, the Conquerors retire again to their Posts in the Citadel, and leave all quiet till the next Alarm, or stated Period, for their going forth again.

To



To be serious, dear Sir, tho' I pretend not to solve the Periods of this Disease, which notwithstanding all our modern Explications, I still reckon one of Nature's Secrets; yet I can as easily reconcile the same to some latent *Fomes* in the Blood, or in the chilous Juice, poured into the same, accumulated in certain Spaces of Time, longer or shorter, or requiring such certain Space before it is able to raise this *Febrile Luctus* or Effervescence therein, as to an *Ataxy* of Spirits, I know as little of. The one I think is more intelligible, at least than the other, as to the *ubi*, or *quod sit*. If he means any thing more by these animal Spirits, than the finer and subtiler Parts of the Blood, whose Vehicle is the nervous Fluid, if not the Essence itself of such Spirits, they may be no better than meer Non-entities; besides, to talk of a Heat raised among these Spirits themselves, independent of the Blood, is like talking of a Fire without Pabulum or Fuel to support it. The *Ataxy* then of these Spirits can only influence the Dispence of the nervous Fluid to the Heart, upon whose Motion the Quickness or Slowness of the Blood, and consequently the Degrees of Heat also, entirely depend. *All Heat*, he says, *can be the Effect of nothing else but Motion*; but then, he should have added,

added, the Motion of the Blood, and not his animal Spirits, however thence at first derived.

There are some who tell us, the same time, reckoning that of each Febrile Paroxysm, is taken up before the Blood is so thoroughly despumed, as to get absolutely clear of the morbid Indoles in this intermitting Fever, as in that which is continual; but this, I think, is a Speculation we need not dwell on, especially since we are so happy as to be Masters of a Remedy, which, striking at the Root, destroys that very *Fomes* which gives it Effence. What a Blessing would it be to Mankind, were we so happy as to discover one that would do as much in that which is continual? I need not tell you this Remedy is the Bark, which our Physician is so good, for our farther Instruction, as to tells us that in *Peru*, where you may imagine he has been, *it is called Castarilla; and that it may be doubted whether or no One hundred weight of it is used throughout the whole Kingdom, which, for your still farther Information, he does assure you, having doubtless taken a Survey thereof, is twenty times as large as Great Britain.*

The Vertue of this Remedy he will have to consist in its resinous Quality; but then methinks he should have rather ordered

dered its being infused in Brandy or Spirit of Wine than in the Wine itself; the former being the much fitter *Menstruum* to extract the Rosin than the latter; and if the sole Vertue of this Drug lies in these resinous Parts, then surely we ought to prefer the Rosin its self to this Gentleman's Method of giving it; where the Patient, of whatever Temperament, hot and hectical, as well as cold and phlegmatick, must drink a Gallon of Claret, in three or four Days time, before he can write *Probatum*; and then possibly may be obliged in so many more to run the same Round again.

I am firmly of Opinion there is a great deal of its febrifuge Property consisting in its styptick Particles, and that the Juices of the Stomach draw out from its Substance finely powdered, a better Extract and Tincture for Nature's use, than any which are or can be prepared by Art, where the Stomach does no ways nauseate its Administration in that way: Nor have we more to fear hence than from its Rosin, its Tincture or its Extract, especially in well constituted Viscera, since whatever is of use to the subjugating the febrile Ferment, being, with the Chyle therewith impregnated, conveyed by the Lacteals into the Blood, the terrene Fæculency passes off with the intestinal Fæces.

ces. But I have dwelt too long upon this Subject, and therefore hasten to his next Chapter, which is that of his

*Fever on the Spirits,*

Where I shall be as short; for if Physicians have made any such Remark as he charges them with, that this Fever does not appear in any manner whatever, then his own is very just, that *De non existentibus & non apparentibus eadem est ratio.*

If there be indeed no such Things as animal Spirits, there can be then no Fever on those Spirits. But this is far from the Point he aims at, which is to prove that, wherein he is right, *viz.* there can be no Fever which does not affect these Spirits, or which is not affected one Way or other by them; but as to those which from the nervous Symptoms attending, such as *Tremor, Subsultus, Oppression on the Præcordia, Syncope,* and the like, we call *nervous Fevers*, or such where the nervous Fluid is more immediately concerned, and therefore by the common People are understood by the Name of Fevers on the Spirits: Whoever denies the Appearance of such, must deny his Senses; for tho' the Fever burns not out like those of the inflammatory, and shows itself rather by  
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a depreſt than a high Pulse; yet the inward Thirſt, and the dry Tongue, with the other unhappy Symptoms before obſerved, ſufficiently ſhow even, without viewing the Eruptions (where there appear ſuch upon the Skin) to what Species of Fevers the ſame do appertain. Of which I have ſaid enough in my Diſcourſe upon this Subject, and ſhall cloſe this with our Author's own philoſophical Concluſion.

*As all animal Fluids conſiſt of animal and vegetable Beings, Alkalis and Acids, or which may be thus accounted Spirit, Sulphur, Salt, Earth and Water, 'tis plain that none of theſe, except the firſt, can raiſe a Fever. Ergo, Without the Intervention of Spirit no Fever can ariſe, or, which is the ſame thing, all Fevers proceed from the Spirits. Q. E. D.*

### *Diseases of the Stomach*

As moſt of the Diſeaſes which infeſt us, whether *Chronical* or *Acute*, eſpecially thoſe we call *Crapulary*, have their Source in this Part, even according to this Gentleman's own Conceſſion; ſo every Writer of a general Hiſtory of Phyſick, ſhould I think ſet out here, however he has thought proper that the Diſtempers of this Part and its Appendages, the Inteſtines, ſhould bring up

up his Rear; in the Cure of which, as an early Taste of his Judgment, he gives us to understand *that Vomits ought to be discarded Practice, as contrary to Nature*: And yet surely he must at one time or other have observed, that when at any Time a Man has taken a Bottle or two too many, there is nothing more natural than for the over-loaded Stomach to throw it up again; and happy surely has it been for many, who by this Benefit either naturally or artificially procured, have escaped the Danger of a Fever, or some other as fatal a Disease. This indeed has the Consent of almost all Physicians, at least of all such as deserve that Name. This, as I said but now, has the Voice of Nature herself to back it, and without which Physick too often is given in vain. This is the direct Way, the most speedy and the most useful to throw off a vicious Load of indigested Aliment or viscid Phlegm impacted in the Coats of the Stomach, more difficultly wrought upon by purging Remedies, and which might otherwise kindle a Flame in the Blood, and lay the Foundation for an acute, or by stuffing up some of the smaller Vessels, a more chronical Illness.

Had he consulted Dr. Sydenham, who is allowed by all to have been one of the most judicious, and the best practical Physician

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fician of the Age in which he lived, as well as the most careful Observer of Nature's Steps, in her freeing herself from the Burthen she at some times labours under, he would have found that very sagacious Physician had so high an Opinion of this Evacuation, particularly in Fevers, that in those continual ones of the Years 61, 62, 63 and 64, he always began with vomiting his Patient; nay, when he was called late, and understood the same had been indicated by Nausea at the first Invasion, he made no Difficulty of administering the same at any Time of the Disease, even on the twelfth Day of Decumbiture, if he found the Patient had Strength to bear it. His usual Vomit was the *Vinum Bened.* with *Oxymel of Squills*, and the compound *Syrup of Scabious*, six Drams of the first and half an Ounce of each of the last; a very surly one surely, in comparison of our much safer and most harmless *Ipecacubanna*; or had the Gentleman been acquainted with the Writings of *Hippocrates*, to which I fear he is a Stranger, he might have found many excellent Precepts relating thereto: As, first, *That præternatural and excrementitious Humours are to be voided by the most easy and ready Passages which Nature has contrived for their Outlets. Thus, saith he, the offending Matter of the Stomach is best discharged*

discharged by ἀνω καὶ ὕψους, i. e. Sursum; that of the Intestines by the κατω, i. e. Deorsum. Again, That Phlegm, whether in the Lungs or Stomach (as being there bred or heaped up in those Parts) is best emptied by Vomiting; whilst the Bile contrarily, discharged into the Guts, must be purged away or conveyed downwards by Stool. Farther, he gives Rules as to the Seasons of the Year, that Vomiting is most agreeable in the Summer, purging in the Winter, as to Constitution of Bodies, that tho' slender People bear this Operation best, yet the tabid and hectic cannot suffer it, for fear of hazarding their Lungs, and bringing on Hæmoptoe or Spitting of Blood; and that in general those who are difficult to vomit, are therefore to be purged downwards.

These, with the like Instructions, he may find even among the *Aphorisms* of the Father of Physick; and if his Vomit was yet harsher, viz. the *Ellebore*, what have we to fear from our *Indian Root*, which on the Account of its many excellent Properties, not singly as an *Emetick* to cleanse the Filth of the Stomach, but for the gentle Revulsion made thereby, in many stubborn intestinal Fluxes, deserves *Eulogy* almost equal to the Bark itself?



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'Tis in this Chapter our Physician tells us, *he shall forbear to mention the many Instances of those who have died under their Operations*; but it had certainly been as well for him, if he could have persuaded Mr. *Bradley*, the Surgeon, to have left out of his Book, those Instances of the two Gentlemen who died lately under the Operation of his Horse Purges. What has happened by *Antimonial Vomits*, I cannot say; but I believe he cannot give one Instance where the Death even of a Child, could be reasonably imputed to the taking half a Scruple of *Ipecacubanna*; or of any grown Persons, from a Scruple or half a Dram, especially directed by a Person of any tolerable Judgment or Experience in Physick; before the administering of which Remedy, 'tis seldom to much purpose to order his *Sal Absinth. cum Suc. Limon.* neither yet his *Elix. Vutrioli*, however a good Medicine properly timed, much less *the Tincture of Steel with Elix. Proprietat.* First remove the slimy Filth that lines the villose Tunicle of the Ventricle or Stomach, which cannot so easily be purged downwards, or without raising some Disturbance in the Blood; and then these Remedies may possibly take place: Besides, there can be no purging Medicine, unless the Lenients, which are given in the Room of Clysters  
for

for the sake of Relaxation, but what will carry off the nutritious as well as excrementitious Humours, to the weakening oftentimes of the Patient's Strength, lets fitted to bear such Evacuation: Easy and gentle Vomiting on the contrary, throws out only what is noxious, and leaves the Patient stronger for the most part, at least more easy and refreshed thereby. But surely I need say no more to justify an Operation so constantly in practice, and as constantly found to be beneficial, where no Contraindication (as *Hippocrates* himself takes notice) shall forbid. There are many of these against Purging, but few only against this Operation.

This Gentleman has surely a very weak Memory; and yet if he could forget his publick Declaration against Opiates, but a few Lines before he directs one in the most unproportionate and dangerous Dose that was ever prescribed by any Physician before him; it is less wonderful we should here find, after some Pages, that he had advised one of the roughest himself, viz. the *Turpethum Min.* as in the *Rheumatism* and *Jaundice*; he should, I say, now exclaim against Vomits in general; and very formally acquaint us that he shall forbear to mention the many Instances of those who have died under their Operation.

*Diseases of the Intestines.*

From the Stomach our Phyfician defcends orderly to the Difcafes of the Guts, where he plays the *Etymologift*, giving not only their Names, but the Reasons alfo of thofe Names; and thus the firft, he fays, *has its Name of Duodenum, from its fupposed length of twelve Inches; the fecond Jejunum, becaufe it is rare to find any Excrements therein;* he fhould have faid Chyle, for no Excrement is formed there, nor can come thither, unlefs the whole *Ductus Alimentalis*, I mean the *Periftaltick* Motion thereof, happens to be inverted, when fuch Excrement has been found thrown up by the Mouth, the Cafe of the *Iliac Paffion*, named from its terrible Symptoms, *Miferere*; the third *Ilium*, the Seat of that Difcafe, a *Circumvolvendo*; *Cæcum* the blind Gut, or which has only the fame Paffage whereby the Fæces are let in, and pafs out again; *Colon ab Impediendo*, (rather a *κόλον Cavum*.) This, he fays, is the Seat of that Difcafe called *Cholera Morbus* or the *Colick*; of the latter it may be; but I diftinguifh thefe two, and believe that of the latter (as it fhould feem by the inceffant bilious Vomiting) to be, if not in the Stomach itfelf, yet nearer thereto than

than the Colon: as the *Duodenum*, where the *Bile* is discharged, for its Admixture with the *Pancreatick* Juice, at these Times under a præternatural Fermentation; but this I readily submit. The last he informs us is the *Rectum*, so called from its streight Passage to the *Anus*.

Our learned Reader will easily perceive the one half of these have their Derivations from the *Greek*; tho' our learned Physician has not given the *Radix* of either; nor should he have called this Chapter by the *Name of the Diseases of the Intestines*, which concerns little more than their *Nomenclature*, and to which he subjoins another, immediately following, under the same Title of

*Diseases of the Intestines.*

Among these the first he gives us, is that of the *Iliack Passion* before mentioned, in which there is nothing more to be done than to give your Patient a Pound or a Pound and half of Crude Mercury or Quicksilver; & ut intrat Mercurius, sic exit Iliaca. The Colick is next, which in the preceding he makes the same as the *Cholera Morbus*; for the Cure of this, you are to take the Powder of Rhubarb, Cre-mor Tartar. Liquorish and Coriander Seeds. If this Pain be great, the Patient is to

swallow the following Draught or Julep, I know not which, it being too big for the one and too little for the other, *viz.* *Black Cherry Water and Mint Water*, of each two Ounces, *strong Cinnamon Water*, I know not how much, *with twenty Drops of liquid Laudanum*: This is to take off the Pain, when you may try the next, which however suited to stay the Vomiting, may very likely bring it on again, *viz.* the *Sal Absinth. cum Succo Limonum*, as it is ordered for the Diseases of the Stomach.

The last are those of the *Rectum*, where we have a Recipe for *flat Worms*, which he most absurdly calls *Ascarides*; for the *Lumbricus Latus* is seated higher up, and is five hundred fold, I might say a thousand, longer than these *Vermiculi* bred upon the very Verge of the *Anus*, and continually irritating the said Part; the Remedy is by boiling *Quicksilver in Water* (a very antient one) and throwing in the same Clyster-wise.

To this Account of the *Flat Worms* or *Ascarides*, he immediately annexes his Case of Miss Corbet, which, he says, made a very great Noise all over the Town; the Right Honourable the Lady Louisa Berkley being left off by other Physicians, the Right Honourable the Lady Rachel Manners, being left off by her Physicians. Now whether Miss  
Corbet,

*Corbet*, or these Right Honourables, had any of these flat Worms or *Ascarides*, we are left in the dark; the Doctor only tells us, *that it was agreed on all Hands* (he means certainly the Nurses) *that he kept them alive several Days longer (tho' they happened to die at last) than was expected by any Person about them.* You see I am right, for I said the Nurses, who doubtless must be the People that were *thus* astonished at the Doctor's keeping away Death so long.

*As for my Lord Irwin, the Duke of Rutland, and Mr. Mansell, of a Welch Family, who all died of the Small-Pox, (not of the flat Worms or Ascarides) tho' the Apothecaries gave it out (saith he) that I killed them, I deny it; for to the best of my Knowledge I never saw the Face of either of them.*

What a goodly Train of Right Honourables is here? And to what a goodly End tacked to this absurd Story about the Diseases of the strait Gut? Let those who can find it out, determine: I must own, I can see no other than a very ridiculous Amusement.

I have now, tho' perhaps with too much haste, for which you must excuse me, ran over this Gentleman's Practice; and am come to his Conclusion, where, after he has spent his Artillery against the Apothecaries, for not recommending him

him even at a time when he would suffer none, unless his own, to make up his Prescriptions, he gives us a *Gasconade* about some Miracles wrought in *Gloucestershire*, and shuts up the whole with a *Tragi-Comical Farce*; to which the *Mountebank* or *Sham Doctor*, nor yet the *forced Physician* are scarcely to be compared.

The Patient is brought upon the Stage, not only sick but dying, under a high Fever; his Eyes set in his Head, (tho' the Strings not quite broke) his Jaw fallen, his Tongue directly black and hard, his Face of *Indian Dye*, with round Drops thereon as big as Pease; (*these are the Doctor's own Words*) and to raise still greater Astonishment, he is described every Way as a Person truly in *extremis*, that is, agonising (as we say) under Death. The Apothecary and Doctor enter, doubtless in great Hurry; the latter asks the former if he could Bleed? The Apothecary says, yes: and accordingly gets every Thing in order for the Operation; when the Doctor gives him a special Charge to make a large Orifice, which was done: He then enquires how much Blood he must take away? The Doctor answers him, he could not tell. The Apothecary then acquaints him that he had already drawn off twelve Ounces; the Doctor bids him go on; the Apothecary says next he had drawn twenty; when

when the Doctor observes somewhat of a Pulse coming on in his Patient: To be short, he bleeds him to forty-eight or fifty Ounces, *no need of disputing about two Ounces more or less in such a Quantity*, when the Pea sweats went off, and his Face came to its Colour.

You are now to observe that the Doctor is not idle all the while, but preparing a cool Tankard of Rhenish Wine, Water, Lemon, but whether Sugar (*a necessary Ingredient in a cool Tankard*) is not mentioned, holding near three Quarts. He raises the dying Man upon his Pillow, and gave him a Pint Glass full; when immediately the sick Man began to move his Eyes that before were fixed as above, and to close his fallen Jaw. He then pours down a couple of Glasses more, well understanding he must needs be thirsty, *as you will hear presently*. He then fixes his Eyes again, but they were now upon the Doctor, to whom holding out his Hand, he cries out, What is it you, my Friend? The Doctor now asks him if he could drink? for he had yet taken but three Pint Glasses (*just half of the Apotem*). He answers, the Ocean. The Doctor, without telling us how many more were got down, bids the People rub him well with dry Cloaths, and then asks him, how he  
finds



finds himself? He replies, in a strange confused Condition.

Here we have a Pause; and the tragical Part, at least what is represented very likely to have proved so, ended; the Comedy begins, for the dead Man of a sudden flinging off the Bed Cloaths, jumps out of Bed, puts his Feet into his Slippers, calls for his Night Gown, and walking cross the Room, sets himself down in a two armed Chair, where he cries out, Now, my dear Friend, we will have one Flask of Claret. The Doctor says, not so, for that he will have the Flask; but you (saith he) must keep close to your cool Tankard.

Thus ends the Conversation till the next Morning, when the Doctor coming to wait on him, found him in the Stable among his Horses, without a Cap, having nothing on him but his Night Gown and Slippers. The Doctor asks him how he did? The Patient answers, Never better in all his Life.

Under this Paragraph in the Book I borrowed of a Friend, was written the following Doggril,

*Sic Vir,  
Ex Orci faucibus, Tancardo frigido, demptus.*

As

As I know nothing of the Case, I shall forbear my Remarks upon the same, or place it in a different Light from what the Doctor himself hath put it, who 'tis plain, believed *Repletion* to be the Disease, and consequently that *Depletion* must be the Remedy. I have heard you say in former Days, that if a Man happens to take a Bottle too much over Night, there was nothing preferable the next Morning to a *Hare of the same Dog*. Tho' I may differ from you herein, yet I verily think, had this Person been my Patient, I should have obliged him with the Flask of Claret, he so passionately desired, as soon as the cool Tankard, and might plead for the same, this great Physician's Authority, who asserts in the same place, *That not to comply with Nature's Cravings, or deny a Man any Thing which he calls for with great Earnestness, is a Contradiction to the Rules of Nature, and most certainly wrong*, p. 148.

Sir Roger L'Estrange, if I mistake not, in one of his *Observers*, about the latter Part of the Reign of King Charles II. giving his Advice to a certain News-Writer of the opposite Party, speaks thus: *If, saith he, your Design be to raise Astonishment, you must be sure to exaggerate every little Incident, taking care however you exceed not possibility of Fact, for this will*  
I
serve.

*serve only to render your Story incredible, and yourself ridiculous.*

Were I now to deliver my Sentiments freely, our Physician seems to have gone a little out of the Way, or rather into that against which this Gentleman gives the Caution ; for not only the Symptoms (*if you will pardon the Phrase*) of Death, are drawn to the Life, but some of the Incidents, carried I fear to an Impossibility ; for it will be a little hard to reconcile how a Jaw-fallen Man, a Person, as the Doctor says, *in extremis*, could get down a Pint Glass full of Liquor, *i. e.* how the Muscles of the Tongue, Fauces and Oesophage, could form themselves for their Office of Deglutition, whilst the Jaw was thus fallen ; how instead of a Pint Glass, one Spoonful of Liquor could be poured down without a Drop passing into the Rimula of the *Larynx*, or the *Epiglot* hindering such an Accident at such a time, and under this senseless Condition of the Patient ; and perhaps it will be thought as strange by some, how forty or fifty Ounces of Blood could be so readily extracted from a Person thus *in extremis*, when scarce so many Drops at some times will run out under *Synoptic* Disorders. If the Pulse was only oppressed, as in Plenitude, it will rise upon Ventilation ; but where there is a  
true

true ἀσφυξία, hardly so; that there was just before, this *Pulsus abolitus*, we might infer from the Doctor's Words, *I then discerned something of a Pulse*; however, this is only a little Stretch of Incidents, the putting *totaliter* in the place of *partialiter*, a Mode of Speech very usual, where the *Admirable* is chiefly aimed at, and of which it will be granted this Case affords us a great deal.

Affirming or denying, or, as the common People call it, *fending and proving*, is no part of my Undertaking; but I have too much Reason to believe from what has casually fallen in my Way, (*I am sure without seeking the Intelligence*) that there are very few of our Physician's Admirables will bear the Inquisition.

A Steward to a certain noble Lady being seized the last *January* with our epidemick Pulmonary, or Catarrh Fever, lodging at his Brother's, near *Aldgate*, sent for me, and being in very imminent Danger, another Gentleman of the College was joined in Consultation. In one of my Visits, when he was upon Recovery, he was telling me of the Fever they had in *Gloucestershire*, where he then resided four or five Years ago, which was exceeding fatal; I told him, I had been informed that no one died of that Fever who had been largely blooded: He said, I was mis-

informed, for that he knew great Numbers who had been blooded within an Inch of their Lives, (*that was his Expression*) yet notwithstanding died as inevitably as those who had not bled at all.

When I was a few Days since at *Batson's* Coffee-house in *Cornhill*, sitting at a Table in Company with Dr. *Jurin*, Mr. *John Girt*, Surgeon, and several other Gentlemen of the Faculty, a Person then at the Table, told us, that being at *Bristol*, and well acquainted with *Thomas Hackett*, (*the Person dipped in the Cold Water for a Spotted Fever and Hemorrhage at the Nose*) he was minded to satisfy himself in the truth of that Relation, and called upon this *Thomas Hackett*, desiring to know what Sort of Fever he had upon him when he was plunged into the cold Water. To this *Thomas* makes answer, that it was true, he had a bleeding at Nose, for which the Experiment was tried, which succeeded for the present ; but that as to any Fever, People might say what they pleased, he knew of none he had: Upon which the same Person told him, that it was reported in *London*, not only so, but published in print, that he had a very *Malignant Spotted Fever*, along with his Bleeding at the Nose ; *Thomas* replies still, that Folks might publish or print what they pleased, but he did assure him he had

no

no Fever, nor any Spots, unless some scurvy ones upon his Legs, nor was it for any such he was put into the Water; whence very probably this Hæmorrhage at the Nostril might proceed from that scorbutick *Dyscrasy* in *Thomas's* Blood, (than which nothing is more common) or was the Effect of a hot scorbutick Humour therein, of which our Physician makes a Jest: But let it proceed from what Cause soever, whoever understands upon what Rationale cold Bathing is founded, must perceive that this was a most unlikely Way to check the *Hæmorrhage*, which by the Heat concentrated, instantly returning with greater Force to the Confines of the Body whence it was as suddenly repelled, must with the same accelerate the Motion of the Blood, and endanger, as I said but now, an Eruption with greater Violence than before. Were the Gout Story with the streight Shoes to be enquired into, I doubt not but it would be found a Piece of the same Spinning with the rest, and taken off from the same Tenters. Upon a Review then of the whole; as you have desired my Thoughts of the Performance in general, however I may happen to disoblige the Author, yet in Justice to the Publick I must declare, that as the practical part thereof is the most absurd, so the historical the most romantick I have ever met

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withal;

130 *The Antient* P H Y S I C I A N ' s , & c .

withal ; it may serve to amuse the Ignorant, for whom doubtless it was intended ; but can never pass with Men of any tolerable Judgment in Physick, or surely, one might imagine, of common Understanding. You see plainly it will not go down with that of,

S I R,

*London, June*  
the 24th, 1733.

*Your real Friend and*

*very humble Servant,*

D. T.

A

( 131 )

A

# DISCOURSE

ON

# QUICKSILVER,

By way of POSTSCRIPT.

HAVING gone through the *Physician's Legacy*: I am come now to the second Task you have laid upon me, concerning the *Quicksilver A-la-mode*; as you are pleas'd to express yourself; in which if I give you not the Satisfaction you may expect from me, you must not reflect upon my want of Care and Diligence to collect what Intelligence I could get, in relation to the same; but to the Remissness, Indifference or Indolence, I know not which to call it, of certain Persons, who I cannot chuse but think (*some at least*) have had it in their Power, to have furnished me with better Materials, upon which to have founded a more useful and instructive Account than this I

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send



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send you. I must acknowledge there are several Gentlemen of the Faculty, have been so free as to communicate what has fallen under their own Observation, relating to our Subject; but the Cases being not so absolutely clear and indubitable as they could wish, and the Practice novel, at least to some of them, they are very shy of their Names being made use of.

On the other hand, tho' many of the Patients themselves have been free in imparting to me theirs, with the Issue thereof both good and bad; yet before they open, I am strictly to plight my Faith in like manner, that they shall not be brought upon the Stage; however, some few you will find, and those of good Fashion, have frankly consented thereunto, as believing what they communicate may be of Service to the Publick.

There are yet another Sort, who having run with the Multitude, and taken the Remedy for somewhat, but what, they scarce knew themselves, if they have catched a *Tartar*, as I hear one of them has done, *viz.* a fine Pair of sore Chaps, are ashamed of the Experiment, and it is by a kind of Stealth that I have come at the Knowledge thereof. For this Reason I must acquaint you before-hand, *Quod fides tua, in multis casibus, sit penes Auctorem.* As Truth is my sole Aim in the  
Enquiry,

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Enquiry, I promise you I will not swerve an *Iota* from what I know, or have Reason to believe such. You ask me, if I have yet prescribed the Remedy myself in Form? And to this I must answer, that tho' I always comply with those who have a strong Inclination for it, in Cases more especially where I think no Prejudice may ensue, yet I never write it; and I'll tell you why. About the latter end of the last Summer I was consulted by a peevish Man labouring under a nervous *Atrophy*, attended with Cholick, Indigestion, and a Loathing to all Food; which his Stomach would not retain, unless for a little while, when all was thrown up again. I tried him with *Tinct. Sacra*, *Tinct. Spec. Diamb.* with hot Bath Water, *Sal Absinthij* Draughts; and between whiles a Mixture to be supped hot of three Parts *Aq. Cinnam. Ten.* and one of the *Spir. Menth.* but all proving ineffectual to rectify this vitiated Tone of the Bowels, I was discharged, and a worthy Man called in, who upon Enquiry what had been done, and at a loss to find out any Thing that would better answer, was minded to try the Quicksilver, and wrote it down accordingly. Soon after the Patient's Death, meeting the same Physician in Consultation at another Place, where Quicksilver was proposed, and being mind-

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ed to entertain him with the Jest, I concealed my Knowledge of his being the Person concerned with my former Patient, and told him only that one in my Neighbourhood was lately dead, and that it was given out (*as indeed it was*) that he had killed himself with *Quicksilver*. The Doctor smiled, and said, he was glad of that; *for had they reported that he had killed him, they might have produced a Warrant under his Hand for the taking of it, which he should not so readily grant another time.* I told him I knew that he was the Man, and congratulated him that the Neighbours of the Deceased had been so very civil to him. Now, Sir, if for the same Reason, the preventing Obloquy, I have hitherto signed none of the same Warrants, I dare say you will not blame me.

You tell me, in the next Place, *that the Practice, unless in the Convulsus, where you gave a Pound at once, and in an Hour's time received it all back again, is unprecedented*; but I can assure you otherwise, for in King Charles the Second's Reign I very well remember, tho' it is above fifty Years past, a Physician knighted by that Prince, whose Name I can sometimes recollect, though not at this Instant, encouraged it much, who lived retired from Business somewhere about

*Edmonton*;

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*Edmonton*; and where the Villagers all round coming to consult him, especially on their Children's Diseases, he advised a Thimble full of Quicksilver to be given them every Morning for a Month; and when careful to observe them in their Needings, they would oftentimes recover the same, which being washed, served for the next Dose. Thus they went on, and in Worm Disorders found wonderful Effects: At length by some Childrens dying convuls'd that had taken it, in which the same possibly had no Share at all, the Esteem thereof began to slacken, and some Months after this a Rumour was spread that a Farmer's Child, being swelled monstrously (*no doubt at such a Time great Addition was made by the Relators of the Story*) about the Mouth and Throat, was quickly after strangled or choaked by the same; I suppose a Ptyalismus hastily coming on, might be the Occasion. Upon which Alarm the Quicksilver was thrown out of Doors at once, and deemed no better than a Poison.

Whether or no the same Practice was then carried on in *London*, as the well-meaning Author of the late Treatise on *Mercury* seems to intimate, I know not, My Father's Residence being quickly after at *Tottenham*, gave me the Opportunity of this Intelligence, which I have hinted

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only to satisfy you that this Method is but an old Practice revived, and very probably may, from some Accident not yet brought to Light, be again discarded.

When you come close to my own Sentiments, I know not what to say to you little more than this, that I think verily the much greater Number who take it, may as well pour so much Quicksilver through a winding Funnel or one of the spiral Kind, and giving it a constant, but very gentle Shake, they receive the same sooner or later, just as it enters, in a Basen placed for that purpose at the lower Extremity.

A young Gentleman, whom I employed for that End, having prepared the Stomach and Intestines of a Bitch, and made a firm Ligature about the Rectum, pour'd in a Quantity of crude Mercury by the Oesophagus, and then tying up that in like manner, shook it about till it was past over the Pylorus, and had entered the Intestines, when laying it down he perceived it lodge at the next Angle of Incidence, where he left it for some Hours; then shaking it about again, as he raised it a little up, it ran lower down to the next Gyre, as he had placed the Preparation on the Table in a somewhat declive Position: Here it rested again till the next gentle Elevation; at last moving it lightly,  
and

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and lifting it still higher from the Table, he perceived the whole Mass fallen down upon the Ligature, at the lower end of the Rectum, unless some few Globules found afterwards upon opening the whole intestinal Canal, detained by a slimy Mucus on some of the Valves, but not one that had passed thro' the Coats either of the smaller or larger Guts. Before the Quicksilver was taken out, as the Gut where it was lodged was held up perpendicularly, another Ligature was made close just above the Superficies thereof, and in the Interstice a very fine pointed Needle was thrust through in divers Parts, when some Globules issued upon drawing the same out, and immediately stopt. After this pressing somewhat hard both above and below, there sprang so many almost imperceptible silver Threads or little Streams of the Quicksilver, whilst the Pressure was continued, and no longer, in the same manner as when the Boys fill an Eel-Skin with Water, then tie it at each Extreme, and prick it in divers Parts with the Point of a fine Needle, when pressing both above and below, they make their Sport in Imitation of a Fountain, throwing forth the Water which had no Passage before, in as many continued Spouts, as they had made Perforations; otherwise, untying both Extremities, altho' you place it in never so many  
many

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many Gyration, still as you pour in at one End, raising the upper, it makes its Way directly, not through the imperceptible Perforations at the Sides, but at the lower.

If you ask, why should not the Mercury enter as well as the Chyle? I can give you no better Reason, than that similar Attraction, by which all animal Secretions are easier solved (*at least in my Opinion*) than by the Hypothesis of specific Pores to receive, and specific Particles to enter those Pores. There is nothing difficult in conceiving that the lacteal Pores were in the first Formation of the Fœtus imbued with lacteal Juice, or somewhat analogous, and consequently adapted to imbibe a lacteal or chylous Liquor, whilst they deny Admittance to others, however specicated in their Make or Texture; if it were not so, I cannot imagine how the infinitely divisible Parts of this Mineral, as they are represented, should not be as well able to enter the *Caruncule Renum*, as some grosser Salts with the Serum of the Blood.

This Problem is prettily enough explained by *Helvetius*, who after he has laid down three other Opinions thereof; *viz.* First, That of Ferments, Secondly, The different Configuration of Pores. And, Thirdly, Their different Magnitudes: He comes to the Fourth, which he says he cannot

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cannot help embracing, *viz.* That Liquors filtrate through some certain Strainers rather than through others, because they find those Strainers filled with a Liquor of a Nature homogeneous to their own.

To discover it, *take* (saith he) *a piece of Cloth, dip it first in Oil, then in another Vessel, wherein Wine and Oil are mixed together; the Cloth will filtrate only the Oil, and not suffer the Wine to pass* \*. The same may be said of a piece of Paper first dipt in Oil, when the Particles of Oil only will pass through, and not Water or Wine poured thereon; but if first dipt in Water or Wine, the Oil has no Admittance.

I know there is another Opinion advanced by Dr. Keill †, from which the different Secretions are reconciled by the different Degrees of Velocity in the Blood, and the Situation of the Glands more remote or nearer to the Heart. Thus the finer Particles are supposed to be strained first, and after, those of the coarser Sort.

To this of ours it will possibly be objected, that on the foot merely of *similar Attraction*, the Particles of Mercury will in no form be admitted; and indeed in the mo-

\* Essay on the Animal OEconomy.  
human Bodies abridged, §. x.

† Anatomy of Hu-



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dern Way of taking it, there may be some difficulty, *i. e.* in the *Aggregate* or *Mafs*, where though they may be fcattered for a little while, yet will they congregate again, and by the Sphericity of their Globules as well as their *Pondus*, slide lower and lower, when they are got over the *Pylorus*, in the intefstinal Tube, till they make their Exit. This, I think, muft be the Cafe of much the greater Number who have been with me, or whom I have talked with, and who have candidly told me, that (*to ufe their own Phrafe*) as they have not found themselves one Pin the better, fo not one Pin the worfe; implying, that juft as they took it, neither altering them, nor altered by them, they let it out again. But this is not the Cafe of all; for whether it makes for or againft my Opinion, I muft own the truth, that many even in this Way of taking it, have found great Benefit by it as well as Injury; an Argument that however it wholly paffes by, for the moft part, yet fome Particles thereof, in others, find a Passage to the Blood, and will fcarce ever mifs doing fo, were it always adminiftered in the Compofition, with which I intend prefently to acquaint you; or as in the Preparation of *Monfieur Belloft*, where it is fo broken and divided, and after fo intimately mixed therewith,

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therewith, as to make as it were one *homogene* Liquor with the Chyle, and therewith to have a much easier Admittance to the Blood.

As to the Subtilty of the *Mercurial Effluvia*, I am daily convinced of them, from the use of the Unction, where I find if the Patient is not careful to remove them before he begins, the Heat only of his Body will diffuse them through his Pockets, and White-wash his Gold even in a Purse therein, as well as the outside Case of the Watch in his Fob. Twenty of these Pieces I received the last Autumn from a Gentleman surprized at the Sight, who protested that he had not touched one of them with his Fingers in the whole time of his anointing himself, till that Instant. He pleasantly told me, however I might be a good Physician, I was a bad *Alchymist*; for that instead of turning his Silver into Gold, I had turned his Gold into Silver. Some of these in offering to the Bank were refused, unless I would allow Threepence a piece for their being put into the Fire. But these Effluvia are surely so far from being friendly, that they oftentimes affect the Nerves, and bring on Tremors; of this I have known many Instances, where there has been no Fire to raise them, in those who have been constantly daubing  
in

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in the Way of Fucus or otherwise, with this Mineral, or some of its Preparations. So that whatever Advantages our Quicksilver Takers in the modish Way, may receive, it cannot be surely from these *Effluvia* thence arising. As to its volatilizing the Chyle whilst in the Stomach, or imparting some healing Virtue, some sovereign Balsam, by those volatile Particles mixing therewith; as I neither can affirm any Thing with Certainty, so neither will I deny the Possibility of such; altho' I must own I am not satisfied fully about them, who have little other Idea of this Mineral, than that of its Divisibility into larger and lesser Spheres. *Antimony*, I know, will impregnate Wine with its Emetic Property by a simple Infusion, and without loss of its Weight; and I shall not absolutely deny but that *Mercury* may do somewhat in another Way to the chylous Juice, especially by the additional Advantage both of Heat and Motion. It was, you know, an old Practice, and is continued still by some, to boil it in Water, and give the Water both Clyster-wise, and for common Drink to Children for the Worms, which I dare say will do no harm; but we are now speaking of the Globules themselves, which neither by the Motion nor Heat of the Stomach, will be at all times so divided,

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as to prevent even the whole Aggregate, upon passing the *Pylorus*, coacervating again, and drilling on in their little silver Rivulets till stopt by the next Angle of Incidence, or by the *Anfractus* of the Intestines; where, and possibly in the *Cæcum*, they will make a Lodgment for many Days, I may say Weeks, as I have known them, before they find their Way out again, and that without ever getting into the Blood. There are some who void them each Day, others once in two Days, and that both separate from, as well as intermixed with the *intestinal Fæces*. There is somewhat remarkable in Mr. *Bradley's* History of one of his own Relations, "who, " he tells us, took an Ounce of Quick- " silver for nine Months daily, without " doing him either Good or Harm; (*an Indication certainly that neither the grosser, nor yet any volatile Particles thereof, ever got into the Blood*) " and that out " of sixteen Pounds he had taken in the " whole, washing it from the Excrement, " as it came from his Body, and reserving " it in a Bottle, when they came to " weigh it, there wanted only one Ounce " and half, which he thinks was lost in the " washing †." This old Gentleman (for he was upwards of Threescore) must have

† See p. 29. of the Remarks.

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been stronger in his Sphincter than many much younger People I have met with, some of which acquaint me it will come away from them in spight of their Teeth. One Gentleman says, he had found it in his Shoes, in one of which his Servant taking it off, shewed it him; in some it slips away with a *Crepitus*; Esq; *Grosvenor*, with whose Case I am to acquaint you presently, told me, that perceiving himself wet, he would at some times put his Hand up to the *Anus*, and bring out a little Mass of the Quicksilver in the Palm thereof: I once observed several little Globules on the Floor of a publick Room at a Tavern, and asking the Drawer how it came there, he told me there were two Gentlemen who came constantly in a Morning, with their little Bottles of Quicksilver, which having swallowed they smoaked their Pipes, and took each a Gill of Wine. He could not tell, he said, but that some of it might be scattered out of their Bottles, tho' I rather believed from their Backsides. Thus it is doubtless the Case of many, who thinking the Remedy is working Miracles in the Blood, might find it in their Breeches, or on the Ground, if they mist it in the Close-stool. I have heard a pleasant Story of a mercurial Lady, who in Dancing at a publick Assembly, happened to let go



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Speck of the Quicksilver, which must either continue in the Stomach, lodge in the Gyrations of the *Ileum*, or recond in the *Cæcum*; whence being therewith implete, it breaks forth by the same Way if entered, and slipping by the Excrement falls directly upon the Extremity of the *Rectum*. That it may lodge some Days in the Ventricle by its mere Pondus before it passeth over the *Pylorus*, I am rather apt to surmise from the Observation of a Lady who has taken several Pounds, (*re tamen hæctenus infecta, quoad levamen aliquod in difficili Anhelitu*) she is sensible of a Weight, which gradually encreasing for two or three Days, at some times longer, without other Inconvenience, goes off again; in all this time she voids none of the Quicksilver; but that Weight wearing off, when in all likelihood the Mercury is turned over into the Intestine, she is sure in her next Needing (as the Gentleman I mentioned but now) to discharge if not the whole, at least the greater part of what from the time of her last Stool, she had taken in. This Weight, when at the heighth, she fancies to be like a Lump of Lead, or as if she had swallowed a Bullet, without which Perception, more or less, she is never entirely free, unless in the short Interval of its coming from her, and the time of

of

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of taking the next Dose. She applied to me for Advice, whether she should go on? I told her plainly, I thought she had try'd it long enough, and that as she had found it had done her no good, I hoped she would have no future Cause (*for I think this Judgment cannot presently be ascertained*) to believe it had done her any harm.

Thus far, Sir, you have my Sentiments of Quicksilver taken in by the Mouth, and slipping out again after a shorter or a longer time by the *Anus*, with my Comparison of the *Primæ Viæ* (as they are termed by some Physicians) to the crooked Funnel or the Distiller's Worm, in whose Gyrations, were it to lodge for a much longer time than it has been reported, I cannot persuade myself it will do any hurt; and if it passes not farther, which in the far greater part of those who take it, I think it does not, I need not go about to persuade you, if it be not a little doubtful whether it can do good. To be plain, I am not yet fully satisfied whether or no crude Quick-silver acts by any other Property than that of its *Penetrability* and its *Pondus*, whilst it retains the Sphericity of its Particles. By the first it is allowed capable of permeating the finest Vessels; by the last to divide the viscid Humours therein



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impacted, and to drive all Obstacles before it; but then will it not behove us a little to consider also whether or no by the same Properties, this Weight and Power of Penetration, it may not, as it can force into, force open also the finer Ramifications of those Vessels, more especially in tender Habits and broken Constitutions, making Way for an Effusion of their Contents. There have been four Cases lately occurred, which have rendered me a little dubious, whether the crude Quicksilver taken just before, had not brought about this Effect; the one in an hectical Patient, never before liable thereto, but presently after, subject to a Bleeding both from the Lungs by the Mouth, and from the Brain by the Nose. The second a Tradesman of this City, whose Case I shall recite presently among some others, where the Blood Vessels of the *Adnata*, with the adjoining Lymphatic ones (as *Helvetius* calls them) seemed to have been burst open by the Globules of the Quicksilver, as the Case was reported to me by one of the Gentlemen concerned, bringing on besides some extraordinary Symptoms in the lower Belly, a most inveterate *Ophthalmia*. The third a poor Woman at *Westminster*, who after the taking some few Ounces, voided a vast Quantity of Blood by Stool. The fourth and last in a Midwife, of whom also more will

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will be said in a proper Place, where the same, in like manner, forcing open the Meseraicks, occasioned a very large Effusion into the Cavity of the Intestines, and being extravasated some time, was discharged in Clots; some Pounds thereof, as she herself informed me, by the Fundament, without Pain as in the *Dysentery*, and without *Hemorrhoids*, unto which she had been never subject; nor could the same arise from any preposterous or irregular Purgation of the Menstrues that Way, as to which she said she was always regular.

These, Sir, are Cases worth notice surely, as not founded upon the least Prejudice, but real Observation of Facts lately presenting. I am sure no one is a greater Friend to this Mineral, given in a Way different from this; yet still as Nature offers it unto us; nor do I think taken any Way, or in any Quantity, that Quicksilver has any Thing deleterious therein, altho' Effluvia, the most pernicious to the Nerves in general, may by Heat be raised thence.

I will now come to speak of those, which, I think, are a very small Number in comparison of the rest, where some Particles of the Quicksilver separated from the Aggregate, and turning out of the common Road, slip in with the Chyle,

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and by the Laſteals get into the Blood. That this is fact I want no Argument ; but when they are got in, and making their Tour therewith, which Way they give Relief to aſthmatick People, I had, I think, much better acquaint you that I know not with any Certainty, than attempt the Solution in a Way to be laughed at, leaving this as a Task fit only for the *wonderful* and *wonder-working Man*, who ſo ſtrenuouſly recommends it in theſe Caſes. I will next acquaint you, that in order to aſſure us it does ſo at ſome times, it has given us the undeniable Evidence of *ſore Chaps* and a *Salvation*, in the ſame manner as when rubbed in by the *Unction*. This, I know, has been denied by ſome, even our *Grand Maſter* himſelf; and we have heard from its *Advocates* that no more could ever be made of it, than ſome ſmall Heat in the Mouth, but without Ulceration. In this, I do aſſure you, they fall ſhort of Truth; for I have more than once obſerved, as thorough a *Salvation* as by *Mercurial Friction*, I mean the *Unction* uſual for that End. At the time of penning theſe Remarks, it happened that I was called into Conſultation with Dr. *Burton* in *Dover-ſtreet*, a Gentleman of the greateſt Candour and Affability, as great an *Indagatour* alſo of *Mercurial Phenomena*, as myſelf, and the Author of a  
certain

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certain Preparation thereof, which he calls his *Mercurius Alcalisatus*, composed of about two Parts *Ocul. Canc.* with one of the *Merc. Vvrs*, as our *Æthiops Minerale* was at first prepared. Her Case was an *Hysterical Cholick*, attended with *Spasmodic Affections* of the whole *Nervous System*, sometimes harassing her with bilious Vomiting; at other times most cruelly torturing her Bowels and Limbs with strong Convulsions; which having baffled all the usual *Nervous anti-hysterical Remedies*, in hopes of some Relief she flew to the *crude Quicksilver*; having taken about six Ounces in so many Days, without Benefit, the Remedy (*and happy doubtless it was for her*) was left off; she complained of a sore Mouth, of which little Notice was then taken; the next Day it grew worse, and on the third, so very tender she could not suffer a bit of Bread, however soaked in her Broth, to come into her Mouth; which, upon Inspection, I found inflamed all over the Palate, and on the inside of the Cheeks; the Gums turgid and gorged in like manner. On the next Day, looking farther backward, on the farther *Dens Molaris* on the lower Mandible upon the left Side, an Ulcer was formed with a true putrid Slough thereon, spreading itself between the Cheek and Gums. She then had spit about a Pint

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and half that Morning, to the best of my Remembrance; of this the Doctor, myself, and Mr. *Manley*, her Apothecary, were Eye-witnesses; and with just Reason concluded, had more of the Quicksilver got into the Blood of what she had taken, or that had she gone on this Way, with some others, a few Days longer, she had bid as fair for being overfet by a *Ptyalismus*, as by the Distemper for which she took it. How this may terminate, as it is, I cannot say, being still daily improving.

I have given you this Example, as I could have done more, that *Quicksilver* this Way taken as well as otherwise, let into the Blood, will at some times salivate; and truly it is admirable to me, if it does often happen so to get in, that it does not oftener happen to do so. This, I intend, shall suffice for a general History thereof, in which I have endeavoured to get the best Intelligence I could procure; but really, Sir, between Bigotry on the one side, and Prejudice, as great, on the other; it is not at all times easy to come at the Truth. In almost fifty several Accounts, I have not twenty that I can pay any regard to; the Cases being so trifling, or so unsatisfactorily drawn up: Some decry it as a slow Poison, destructive many Ways to Men's Bodies; others extol it as a most wonderful Discovery (tho' I have informed  
you

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you it has been formerly in the same Request) as many Ways serviceable and beneficial; for tho' it was at first cried up chiefly for Asthma's, the People are now run mad, and daily swallow it for they know not what themselves, many of them out of Wantonness. I must own however, as I don't think the better of it on Account of the Quarter whence it comes recommended, so neither will I think the worse; if I am prejudiced against the Man, I can assure you it is upon no other Account whatsoever, than that of the Boldness of his Practice in general, and the dangerous Consequences that must unavoidably at some times attend the same. I need refer to no other than his *Diagrediate Electuary* taken by Spoonfuls, and his *Opiate Powder*; the last of which, altho' he has rashly, and as it were at random, without any Calculation entered in form; I would charitably hope he never gave it to any in the Dose he has directed, and should be glad to hear upon farther Consideration, that he would rectify however that one Mistake in the Quantity of the Opium, for fear his Countrymen, instead of an expected light Nap, should have their final *Quietus*. Is it not a little astonishing, think you, that a Gentleman of *Trinity-College*, as he names himself\*, should tell us in

\* *Encomium argenti vivi*, p. 44.

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print, that the Book which has brought Quicksilver into Vogue, shews the Author to be an honest, understanding Man; and that he has wrote it with a very commendable Design: As to all which, I shall only say, that I have nothing to do with that Gentleman's Honesty, tho' he seems, in some degree, to have arraigned it himself, in acknowledging at the last, that he has not been just to the Apothecaries (as every honest Man should and ought to be) in taking their Patients away from them, and carrying them to a Creature of his own\*; but that for the time to come every one who shall please to consult him, shall have this great Privilege of employing their own Apothecary. A Condescension surely this! I hope the Gentlemen will acknowledge his Favour. His Understanding in Physick is best seen by his Definitions of those Diseases upon which he writes; the *Rationale* he has formed thence, and the Method he lays down to answer even his own *Physical Indications*. His Judgment in compounding Medicines, will be also best taken from some of those he has set down; of which enough already: And, lastly, as to his Design, this also will appear as plain from his Attempt to depreciate all other

\* See the *N. B.* at the Close of the Legacy.

Gentlemen,

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Gentlemen, even the greatest and most learned of the College; and having seen more Parts of the World than all of them together\*, to exalt himself above them all, as having thereby picked up (at least he would persuade them so) more Knowledge than all of them together also.

Whatever our *Cantabrigian* may believe to the contrary, I can assure him, as before, no Man has a better Opinion of this *Mineral* than myself, tho' in a different Way taken; being always ready to think, that Nature has provided us with some better Remedies than Art, which under the Pretext of improving, often spoils them; of which we have Demonstration not only in this but other Minerals; as Iron, Antimony, native *Cinnabar*, and others possibly, of whose Virtues, at least yet a while, we know but little. Among *Vegetables* more particularly, we may instance in the *Cortex Peruvianus*, which it will be granted, where the Stomach can bear it, is more efficacious than any of its Preparations; and certainly, the less compounded the Remedy, provided the few Ingredients are rightly adapted to the Distemper, the more likelihood of Success. This Gentleman therefore might have spared his Reflection upon my

\* *Vid.* Introduction to the Legacy.



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Conduct in the last Edition of my *Syphilis*, to Monsieur *Belloste*, with whose Pill I never found fault, for I know it to be a very good one; tho' I should, I must own, have had an equal Esteem for the Author, had he not carried its Commendation beyond its Bounds. I have observed it oftentimes, to be the very great Unhappiness of Physical Writers, that being Masters of a good Remedy, they would impose it upon the World as somewhat that is infallible; they are sure to let us know at all times where it has succeeded, but conceal from us all those Cases where it did not answer. I doubt not but *Belloste* has given us a very just and honest Account in the Recital of his Cases; but surely he had not been the less so, had he given us also to understand that he had been at some times frustrated in his expectation; as every Man will find himself, who makes use of his individual Pill, in many as parallel Cases as are to be met with, on which to make the Experiment. What you may do, I cannot say, but I shall ever prize that Medicine that will answer three times in four; nay, were it one half, on those I tried it, or where it carried Probability of Success; and he who keeps a faithful Register of practical Experiments, will (*I am sure he should*) inform us, as well on one Side as the other.

I never

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I never then found fault with his Medicine, but with making a Secret thereof, at least so far as he is able, and that in Contradiction to a Promise of divulging it. You know, dear Sir, I have been all my Life-time an Enemy to these *Nostrums*, being the Bane of Physick, the very Nursery of Quacks, who under such Pretence, are constantly amusing and abusing the People. I am sure whatever others may do, I shall never keep a Secret in Physick, being best pleased when I have any Thing to communicate that is worth the Acceptance of the Publick. The more Hands a good Remedy is lodged in, the more Good will accrue thereby. The Rich, it is granted, may purchase a *Nostrum*, and possibly may be cheated under that Cover, when the Poor cannot so easily come at it; and as none of us were born for ourselves, let us do what Good we can, and upon the easiest Terms also to our indigent Neighbours, before we are removed hence.

If Monsieur *Belloste* in his Life-time, or his *Assigns*, since his Death, endeavour to persuade us, that Nobody besides themselves, knows how to mix crude Quicksilver with some purging Ingredients, and to incorporate the same into a Pill, they ought to be convinced of their Mistake; and I can assure our *Pharmaceutical*  
Gentlemen,

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Gentlemen, if they will but take the same Pains in reducing the Quicksilver by the help of a little Turpentine, into as fine *Moleculæ*, as *Belloste's* Compounder has done, and after as thoroughly incorporate the same, with the purging Ingredients, as I have already observed, will have, though not perhaps *Belloste's* Individual, yet a Pill that in all Respects comes up to it in its Virtues; half a Dram of Turpentine, they tell me, which is my common Proportion, well laboured, will inviscate two Drams of the *Argentum vivum*, and in warm Weather, or where the *Pil. Coch.* is soft, will sometimes require a little Crabs Eyes, or other Powder, to give the proper Consistence. Altho' the purging Part hereof is very inconsiderable, yet by taking one Pill only Night and Morning, after the first two Days, it will give two or three Stools a Day, easily and pleasantly, without Gripes or Sicknes.

Instead of Turpentine, disagreeable to some, and to prevent any Suspicion in the Family by the Smell of the Chamber-pot, I sometimes order it to be rubbed with a little Syrup, till it is entirely lost, such as the *Syr. Limon. Aurant. vel de Spina Cerv.* *Belloste's* is more loaded with Purgatives, and for that Reason less liable to affect the Mouth; but if these were wholly omitted, where the Remedy is given purely alteratively,

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alteratively, it will do as well, as in Dr. Burton's *Mercurius Alkalifatus*. But then, as I said before, it will be more apt to heat the Mouth, as he sometimes observes it, than when prevented by the Purgative intermixt, tho' now also it will at some times have that Effect. After six only of my Pills (*pardon the Expression, for they shall be yours, and any Man's that will try them*) given to a young Woman chancred and full of *serpiginous* Eruptions, she complained of her Gums swelling and being sore; I advised her to go on, and after six more, finding her Mouth a little sloughed, her Tongue also covered with the white *Mucus*, I prevailed for her going farther on, keeping her Throat warm, and herself also close in her Chamber, till she had taken six more, by one only in a Day; to which, finding the Scabs falling off, and her Ulcers healing, she was reconciled, and kept under the *Salivation* for above three Weeks, whereby I told her I should be better able to warrant her Cure than without this Accident I might have been. Mr. *Belloste* says, he never met with more than one such, altho' he had given his Pill for many Months together; but I am fully satisfied, were his more Purgative than it is, this Survenient will not at all Times, and in all Constitutions, be thereby prevented.

In

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In the *Pharmacopeia Argentoratensis*, or the *Strasburgh Dispensatory*, you will find the following Pill \*, which goes under the Name of *Belloste's Pill*, among some of our Physicians, and with some Foreigners ; but I am satisfied they are under a Mistake ; the Form runs thus under the following Title :

*Pilula Mercuriales cum Argento vivo.*

*R. Troch. Albandal. Diagred. Sulphurati pulv. Jalappæ, Argenti vivi ana ʒj. Terebinth. ʒj. m.*

*Inferviunt* (ut inquit Autor) *præsertim in morbis Venereis. Dentur ad ʒj. vel ad ʒj.*

If you now come to the *Posology*, as they compute themselves, each Dram contains equal Parts of the Quicksilver with each of the three Purgatives, or ten Grains each in every Dram ; so that the Purgatives are three Times more than the Quicksilver, of which in the least Dose you have little more than three Grains of the *Hydrargirum*, in the highest, about six, which is short of what is contained in one of *Belloste's Pills*. I reckon ʒʒ. of Quicksilver to each of minæ, where the

\* *Clas. xvi.*

Composition

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Composition, (*viz.* Mercury, two Drams, Tereb. & Pil. Coch. Min. ana 3℔.) is made into twelve with about five Grains of the Aloes, Scammony, Colocynth and Turpentine together, in each. Each Pill of mine thus divided weighs exactly fifteen Grains; each of *Belloste's* so much more, the one half of which is Quicksilver, the other Purgatives for the most part. As to this, every one may use his Pleasure. In Dropsies, humoral Tumours, or those cold ones which we call congested; also in glandular Obstructions, I give it exactly as *Belloste*, near one half Purgative; but in *Venereal Disorders*, in which I have made the most Trials of it, I direct as above mentioned; and where the Symptoms are severe, as in *Tophs* or Nodes, Chancres or Gummi's; if I can't persuade them to salivate, I sweat my Patient for an Hour, either Night or Morning (as best suits them) after the Pill, with a Pint of the *Lixivium Ligni Guajaci*, drank hot upon it; in the milder Species they observe no *Regimen*; but go about their Affairs as usual.

I hope, Sir, I am not deviating from my Subject, whilst I am laying down these Observations; but I must now return to take leave of my Gentleman of *Trinity*, whom it seems I have offended by entering a Protest against *Quackery*,

M

and

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and calling *Belloste's Pill* by a hard Name, a Piece of vile *Empiricism*, related to that of his Countryman M——n's, at this time with us\*. This, he thinks, is harsh; but if he pleaseth to consider the Advice he immediately subjoins, that the *Way to discountenance these Pretenders to Nostrums*, is not by harsh Expressions, which are easily given on both Sides, but with the Certainty, the Expedition and the Cheapness of our Practice†; he could not, I say, be ignorant that as to the last part, the very Design of these Pretences is to make a Property thereof, by setting five, perhaps ten times the Value they ought to do upon the same, which is a little contradictory to this cheap Practice. In the foregoing Page, he is pleased to remark, that I have not said one Word to the Point in Question; which he humbly apprehends to be the Truth or Falsity of the Facts he has laid down therein; as to this I never understood that there was any Point in Question between *Belloste* and myself, unless that of the *Arcanum*. I never once disputed his Facts, tho' I am persuaded his Pill, be it never so much better than what I have here laid down, has more than once been given without the same Success. This I

\* See my Practical Dissertation, 4th Edit. p. 170.

† *Encomium*, p. 63.

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am fully satisfied of, from the Trials I myself have made with the same, as well before, as after I had given my own. Whether or no his Solution of the *Modus* of the Operation of Quicksilver, given diversly, which the Gentleman says I have found fault withal, be so very satisfactory, do you judge by what follows.

“ When Mercury is taken by the Mouth  
“ (as in his Pill) it is mixed with the Chyle,  
“ at least its volatile Particles, (*what these are, or whether any such fly off to be so mixed, is with some disputable*) “ and moves  
“ naturally with the Blood, raising no  
“ Disorder therein; *He forgets that it may salivate, however rarely; whereas, saith he,*  
“ when it is rubbed into the Skin, and  
“ enters the Blood-Vessels that Way, its  
“ Tendency is quite reverse to the Blood’s  
“ Motion, which it checks or puts a stop  
“ to, like a Dam to the Current of a  
“ River, making it overflow its Banks;”  
*and now great Disorders must happen, though, I think, we have heard of no other Inundation than that of Lymph or Saliva thereby produced in the Microcosm;* “ be-  
“ sides, in this Way it may get into the  
“ nervous Filaments of the Skin, and oc-  
“ casion Palsies \*.

\* Hospital Surgeon, Part 2.



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As to all which, it is certain that the same Remedy conveyed at once to the Blood unmixt with other Liquors, will necessarily affect it in a Way quite different from that, where it is blended or incorporated with a compounded Juice, such as the Chyle, with which it makes several Tours through the Body, being leisurely together with the chylous Liquor, poured into the Subclavian, to be mixed with the Blood.

This is more manifest in our injecting Liquors, which come still more directly to the same, how small a Quantity of some of these, this Way administered, will prove deadly? when a much larger diluted with other Liquor, and mixed with the Remains of our Aliments, whether Meat or Drink, now blended with the other Juices in our Stomachs, and conveyed therewith into the Blood-Vessels, (*unless some caustick Salts, which prey immediately on the Coats of the Stomach*) will induce therein very little Alteration.

But this Difference surely needs not that romantic *Rationale* of the former Running against, the other with the Current; for Liquors thus injected must follow or go with the Current, or else they cannot be thrown in at all. The Difference then is only this; the one comes immediately or directly with its full Force and Energy,  
unmixt,

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unmixt, into the very Bosom, as we may say, of the Blood; the other mediately, altered in its Texture by means of other Juices therewith incorporate, and consequently such Force quite broken.

Tho' this is no Step to the unfolding a *Mercurial Ptyalism by the Uction*, it will however explicate the Difference of the same Remedy, differently administered, without raising of *Dams or Inundations*.

The Marquis *de Rivorele* \*, (as he gives the Account himself) thinking to put him to his Trumps, attacks him thus :  
“ You assert, saith this Nobleman, that  
“ crude Mercury is communicated to the  
“ Blood and Liquors, and yet as soon as  
“ it gets into the Stomach, mixed and incorporated with your Pills, they are  
“ dissolved, the Mercury then quitting  
“ the Ingredients with which it was  
“ blended, all its divided Particles will  
“ reunite and form a Globe, which cannot remain long in the Stomach, but  
“ passing the Pylorus, enters the Intestines,  
“ and is discharged by the Anus. So  
“ that none of this Mercury can be communicated to those Liquors by the  
“ Lacteals.

To this, saith our Philosopher, I replied, *That the Pills are soon dissolved by*

\* Hospital Surgeon, Part 2. p. 80.

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*the Humidity of the Stomach, and the warm Liquor in which they are dissolved ; but then it must likewise be taken into Consideration, that the Mercury is very minutely divided in the Pills ; and that during this Dissolution is performing, the Degree of Heat which is in the Stomach, is exactly sufficient to elevate a sort of little Clouds of the more volatile Particles of the Mercury, they quit the Substance that withholds them, and insinuate themselves with ease and speed, into the Orifices of the Lacteals, whose Figure is exactly adapted to receive them ; thus are they carryed into the Blood, and accompany it in its Circulation.*

The Proof that this is Fact, is as idle as the Assumption of its being thus brought about. Whether this Theory of *volatile Particles, adapted Heat, and adapted Figures*, took with the Marquis, I know not ; but I think it could not with any very curious Enquirer ; for here are two Preliminaries taken upon trust, and which cannot readily be granted. First, That Nature has kindled just such a Degree of Heat in the Stomach, as is exactly sufficient to elevate this little Cloud of volatile Particles, arising from the mercurial Globules : And, secondly, That she has adapted the Orifices of the Lacteals to the Figure of these volatile Particles.

But

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But if we enquire how these Clouds are to get into the Lacteals, I think he must be at a loss to give us Satisfaction; indeed his *Thesis* will be spoiled, should we deny there are any such. These Clouds, if there be such, must be only made up of Steams or Vapours, which, like others, must have their *Motus tantum Ascensionis*; and if they pass not off by the *Oesophage*, they will condense on the upper Part of the *Ventricle*, and reverberate whence they arose. Now since there are no Lacteals in the Stomach, it will not be easy for them to get to those in the *Duodenum*, unless Nature has also contrived some Vent-hole, whereby at their first rising they may be invited over the *Pylorus*, and then strike against the Pores of those Lacteals, thus adapted to them.

The like Mechanism this Gentleman has contrived to account for the *Paralysis* of the Miners, who living long in these subterraneous Caverns, are forced to draw in constantly an Air loaded with mercurial Steams; these condensing on the upper part of the *Cranium*, and having no Vent, fall back again in little silver Spherules upon the Base of the *Cranium*, where accumulating, that is, rising above the *Sphænoides*, the *Cella Turcica*, to the *Ethmoides*, they compress the Nerves at their several Originations and bring on Palsy.

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Thus you have a *Baln. Mar.* in the Stomach, with an *Alembick* in the Head, which seem to me somewhat of Kin to the Antients *Deliramenta Catarrhi*: I might add, a *Sublimatory* below, for there is nothing more common with this Author than to tell us of the Mercury subliming to the Mouth: But before I speak to this, I think this Nobleman's Question might have been better resolved, by saying only, that upon the Solution which is leisurely made, not in one part only but in a great many of the Stomach, whilst the Pills with the Contents of the said Part are always in Motion and shifting Places, the *Minima Mercurialia* being as gradually loosened from what bound them together, and still tossed about with the Chyle, it will be almost impossible, even for any two Particles, were their mutual Attraction much greater than it is, under this Confusion, to unite, much less the whole to coacervate, and form one Globe, as the Marquis expresseth it; but being made one, as it were with the chylous Juice, it will pass of Course therewith, first of all into the Lacteals, thence into the Blood, and after that into those Vessels where the Globules of the Blood itself are not admitted, I mean the Lymphatic, where and in the Glands, from whence they arise, and in which they terminate, I believe it exerciseth its principal Vertues. This,

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This, Sir, is truly my Opinion of *Quicksilver* thus administered, and which I therefore infinitely prefer to that of swallowing it in a Mass undivided, from whence, however others may, I have not yet heard of any one venereal Patient among those whom I have known to have taken it upon that Account also, who have been benefitted thereby. In the first Way I am apt to think that as scarce one *Minimum* is shut out of the Lacteals, so in the last, we are not sure that one will be let in; and if the Chyle receives no Vertue therefrom whilst it lies in the bottom of the Stomach, (as we may conjecture from its great Weight) *acervatim*, which whether it does or no, is with some a little doubtful; it will then, I think, communicate very little, by its shorter stay in the small Guts, or before it glides down to the greater, in order to discharge itself at the *Anus*; I must not say this is the Case of all, for in that I should speak untruly; but, I think, I may of all those who take it, (*and who make the much greater Number of those who have applied to me, or to whom I have applied for my own Satisfaction; those, I mean, who have taken many Pounds*) and as they have found no Benefit, so likewise some no Hurt as yet a while from the same. I am informed by a young Physician, who for some time past has given constant Attendance there, that

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that large Quantities of this Mineral have been given in the Hospital to their *Asthmatick Patients*, but with so little Encouragement, that it begins to be laid aside.

This, I say once more, is my Opinion of Quicksilver, thus artfully prepared by simple Trituration; and tho' I believe the alcalisated Mercury, (*the Labour of two or three Days*) to be a good Medicine, yet I am persuaded this gentle Way of Purging *per animum*, by this Quicksilver Pill (*which may be perfected in a third Part of so many Hours*) to be the better of the two; and since we find it has so easy an Admittance into the Blood along with the chylous Juice, and is able to permeate the whole glandular Compages, running round with the Lymph, I must deem it therefore one of the best glandular Deobstruents we are Masters of; and consequently as glandular Obstructions lay the Foundation of most, if not all our chronical Distempers, it will therefore in all likelihood be found the most generally useful and beneficial to Mankind, which is more than I can say yet a while (*I hope the Advocates will pardon my Freedom*) of the undivided Mass taken in the common Way as now practised; which were it to get into the Blood, in the same Quantity it enters the Stomach, I should fear the same Effects, (*possibly without Foundation*) if not  
in

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in a much higher Degree, which ensue its Admittance thereinto by the Pores. I hope therefore for the sake of my Countrymen, (*with whom, I think, the same is chiefly in Fashion*) the Takers of Quicksilver, there will nothing pass the Lacteals but its volatile Parts, its Gase, shall I name it, or its Balsam; Those little Clouds, as *Belloste* calls them, raised by an exact Degree of Heat, and fitted as exactly to the Pores of the said Vessels, and yet of these I am very doubtful; altho' without admitting some such, or some at least of the substantial Globules getting an Admittance (which they do most certainly at some times) there will be no reconciling the Recoveries of *Asthmaticks*, with some others; much less the slaving of some few thereby, when the Remedy *sublimes*, they say, to the Mouth; as if there were any such Heat in the Blood, as could send up these mercurial Atoms to the Head. Were it so, doubtless the Brain and whole *Genus Nervosum* must be affected, after the same manner as our *Gilders, Colour Grinders, Plumbers,* and other Artificers, dealing with the Fumes thereof, thus raised by Fire. To talk therefore of the Quicksilver thus subliming, if we mean other than its following the natural Course of the *Lympha* to its secretory Glandules in those Parts, is misapplying a chymical Term;  
and



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and with like Propriety we may talk of the Blood itself subliming to the Heart by the *Vena Cava*, or to the Head by the *cervical Arteries*. If when the Particles of the Mercury having taken up some Acids in their passing of the lymphatick Vessels, as in the Salivation, whether accidental or designed, and conveying the same along with them to these Parts, not only burst open the excretory Ducts of the salival Glands, but exculcerate the whole Lining of the *Fauces*; if this, I say, is to be called a Sublimation of Mercury, then surely when it seizeth upon those of the Intestines, which is very common at the beginning, producing *Tormina* with *Dysenteric Fluxes*; this, with as good Reason, may be termed its *Precipitation*. I have only hinted this, as a Caution that we do not borrow Terms which belong not to these Effects, but which are naturally brought about, and more obviously explained by Laws established in the *animal Oeconomy*. I cannot say, but that I may formerly have been tardy this Way myself, and if I have, do freely own myself guilty of an Error.

If you expect in this Place a *mechanical Account* either of the Principles or Properties, as a Remedy, with the Modus of acting as such, in the human Frame, of this Mineral, you will be disappointed;  
for

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for I pretend to little other Knowledge of the first than the Exility and exceeding Subtily of its Parts, each of which how fine soever, can, when divided, like other Matter of that Figure, be never brought into two Hemispheres, but must continue two lesser Spheres; 'tis by this Figure that it is capable of exercising one of its Properties, *viz.* permeating the Vessels, and opening their Obstructions. How it breaks the Points of Acids at one time, and associates itself with them at another; I must refer you to Monsieur *Belloste*; it suffices me to know that both Ways it is a good Scourer of the Glandules all over the Body, not omitting even those on the Surface, I mean the *Cutaneous*; for in the Diseases of these Parts, whether *Leprous*, as I said formerly, *Scorbutic* or *Venereal*, in the *Herpes* or *Serpigo*, *Impetigo*, *Psora*, *Scabies*, or the common *Pruritus*, two Drams of Quicksilver, as given in my Composition, has sometimes done more Service than many Ounces, I might say Pounds of *Æthiops*, in destroying the Salts, or by attenuating the viscid Lymph that detains them, making Way for their Transpiration through the Pores. In glandular Obstructions of the Mesentery, I have told you, as in scirrhus Tumours upon the Viscera, hindering their due Secretions, as well as the Distribution of Nourishment to the several Parts, I dare say it will be

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found to answer even beyond a Course of *Chalybiats*, the more usual Prescriptions: I might have added whilst I was mentioning the *cutaneous* Defilements, that in the *Gutta Rosacea*, where the *Tubercula* were not too much indurated, I have known it serviceable. How far it will succeed in some of the worst of our *Glandular Diseases*, particularly the *Struma*, as *Bellosse* informs you; with me it has not answered, tho' I have made several Trials thereof.

As to encysted Tumours, such as the *Atheroma*, *Sleatoma* and *Meliceris*, much less the *Sarcomatous*, however it happens, I have found as little Benefit, tho' that Gentleman takes notice of some vast indurated Tumours which it brought to Suppuration; had it resolved them, I should have been more ready to have ascribed that to the Remedy; for the Tumour might have suppurated under the Assistance of some maturing Cataplasin, or by the Strength of Nature, whether his Pill had been given or not; at least we don't find purging Medicines of any kind, however proper to promote Resolution, yet not to forward the making of Matter, or ripening an Aposteme; but the Particles of the Mercury at these times, he tells us, first open the Tubes, divide and soften the impacted Humours, and then turn some Parts of them into Matter, whilst others

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others are carry'd off by Stool at the same time. Be this as it will, the Cure succeeded under the constant Use of the Pill, and therefore the same (*perhaps deservedly also*) had the Credit thereof; but as to *Venereal* Cases, I must deem it not only the best of the Mercurial Preparations, but the best Remedy we have for them; and if our Patients of this Sort, would apply more early, I mean before the Bones under their *Nodes* were cariated, I verily think from some Examples I could produce, there are many of them might be cured without Salivation; which would be, I am sure, an inestimable Benefit to those, who have not the Opportunity of Retirement, unless to their exceeding Detriment, and at the hazard of their Reputation; many Scores of these People have been with me; and when I tell them I cannot warrant their Cure unless by Salivation, the Wealthy have ran away to *M——n*, and the middling Sort of late to *Belloste's* Pill; others again to the Friction Man at the other End of the Town; when some have returned some Weeks after, to acquaint me, they have got their Cures without Fluxing. Tho' this is the Lot of some, yet I have had others of them after the fruitless Experiments of each of these, whom I have been obliged to lay down at last; however, whilst I am in Practice, I shall not, I think,

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think, for the time to come, so readily part with a Man of Credit, whom I cannot prevail upon for Recess in the other Way, without first trying as good a Remedy (*I mean my Pill*) as M——n's, or Belloste's either.

Whilst these Sheets were supervising for the Press, I had a young Lady brought me, in Company with her Husband, who had infected her; as also their Apothecary, from whom I had a Hint that I was only to satisfy myself about the Symptoms, without letting her know the Nature of her Malady. She had received the Injury about nine Months, had a *Node* rising upon the *Os Frontis*, with another on one of her Shins, as also *nocturnal Headach*; she had formerly been chancered below; but these were dried away by the *Cinnabar Fume*, which the Apothecary had directed her Nurse in the use of, and by some Doses of *Calomelanos* which he had given her.

Having satisfied myself of her Case, I acquainted her I would direct her Apothecary what should be done for her Relief; the next Morning he came along with the Husband, whom I told I was apprehensive she could not be set right, or freed entirely from the Disease without Confinement, under the spitting Course; and that no time should be lost, lest the Bones, if they were not already, should be corrupted;

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corrupted ; this I found was not to be complied with upon any Terms whatever. He said, he would try what could be done for her in another Way ; I reply'd, that I believed I could serve her in that Way (*which I understood was Belloste's*) as well as the Author of that Pill, were he now living ; and agreed instantly on the Experiment ; I then in private ordered the Apothecary to rub two Drams of the crude Quicksilver by the most assiduous Trituration, with a little *Syr. de Spina*, into the finest and most imperceptible *Moleculæ* ; and after adding half a Dram of the *Pil. Cochiae min.* to beat it up into a pilular Consistence, with as much Powder of Crabs Eyes, if needful, as would give that Form, out of which he was to make sixteen Pills, one to be taken Night and Morning, whilst they lasted ; which was for eight Days ; after the Evening Pill she was to drink a large Draught of the *Guajac. Decoction*, hot as she could, and covered close to sweat for an Hour or two, when the Nurse was to attend, and prevent her getting Cold ; in the Morning she took the same Draught after her Pill, but *without sweating*, had the liberty of rising and of going Abroad if she pleas'd, without any Regimen enjoined.

When she had taken these Pills, which gave her two and sometimes three gentle Stools in a Day, she made me a Visit, and taking off the *Cinnamon* Plaster, which I had directed for each Rising, I found both entirely subsided,

N

and

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and her Pains also vanished, to her very great Satisfaction, and I may tell you, to my as great Surprise. For her Security I directed the like Number of Pills to be repeated for eight Days more, with the sweating Course, but more moderate a Nights, and then for a Fortnight longer without any sweating at All.

If this Cure stands, I shall not, I say, suffer a good Patient to run away to Quacks in the Dispute about a *Salivation*; tho' I am still of Opinion the much greater Number in some Stages of this Disease, such more particularly as the *Exostoses* and *carious Topks*, will never be cured without. The middle Infection, I am satisfied, will often give way to this *Regimen*; and the slightest, as the *Marcule*, *Scabs* and *Serpigines*, may almost be warranted. About six Months past, a poor Fellow came to me with some of these; those upon the Scalp were spread with great Putrefaction, insomuch that upon lifting up his Wig, and taking off the Rags he had put on to prevent the Adhesion thereof; he stunk so that I was scarce able to hear him in my Study. I told him, I could save him no otherwise than by getting him into the Hospital, in order to his being salivated: He said he might as well be thariged; for his Master would no more entertain him. I asked him, if he had any Friend that would trust him with a Box of Pills. He said, yes, with ality; and named one Mr. Cray in *Liard's head street*, almost opposite to *Green Church*. I directed the

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the same Mass, made up with the *Terebinth*, divided into twelve, one of which he took Night and Morning, without the Apocem, or any manner of *Regimen*; by which only once more repeated, he got clear of all the *crusty Scabs* and *serpiginous Ulcuscula*.

I could give you many Histories of the same Success within these twelve Months past; but lest you should think me so much volatilized, as the *Frenchman* or his Translator calls it; or lest others thereby should be so elevated therewith, as to think they have now an infallible Remedy for the *Lues*, I must deceive them; for tho' at some times I have succeeded, at others I have been disappointed by the same.

How Climes may alter Diseases or the Remedy, I know not, who cannot yet boast of *Belloste's* Success therewith; having within these seven Months past been forced to salivate two Persons by the Uction, for some chancrous Ulcers, one of which had withstood a great Number of our noted *M--n's*, and a much larger of the *Pilule Bellostianæ*.

Before I finish my Discourse upon this Subject, it may be necessary for me to take off the Objection that some Gentlemen have made, *viz.* that in my *Practical Dissertation*, I do not seem to have entertained that extraordinary Opinion of the Quicksilver Pill, as I do now; for this I will make no other Apology, nor can I certainly a better, than the want of that Experience thereof, which I have had  
Oppor-



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Opportunities of making, since the 2d Part of *Belloste's* Book was published, which put me upon the same; and as I do not think myself too old to improve, much less to communicate such Improvement, however it may happen to clash in some wise with any former Sentiments, relating to the same Subject.

As *Truth* is ever sacred in itself, so I hope no sinister View whatever, no personal Pique or Prejudice against any Man that discovers it, will hinder me from being its *Votary*; for if I, who have made the Good of my Fellow-Citizens the prime Study of my Life, and for that Reason principally have shewn myself an Enemy to all *Medicinal Secrets*, should swerve from her, now in my old Age, when going out of this World, what would the People say of me? Or what can I expect will be my Lot in the next? Of which, Sir, to deal sincerely between you and I, I am as fully assured, and in which, notwithstanding the Bluster of modern Infidelity, I do as firmly believe, as that I am now in this. No, my dear Friend, it shall never be so said of me, at least deservedly.

If an erroneous Opinion should misguide me, it will be, I dare say, of no longer continuance than till my own better Judgment, or that of some kind Admonisher, shall set me right.

Some

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S O M E

# Historical Memoirs

O F

## QUICKSILVER.

**A**ND now, Sir, having finish'd my Discourse in general upon this Subject, I shall present you with the Success of my Enquiries, as to which I may tell you, That I have had a great many trifling Accounts, yet I can boast of very few of much Regard and Importance; so that I believe, were I to begin the Task, I should decline it, and rest content, like others, as a Stander by only, or simply a Looker on. I have already acquainted you, that I have met with the least Encouragement where I expected most; and I cou'd tell you still somewhat more strange, that some Gentlemen, who in all Companies have made no scruple to tell the same Story, have desired, however, that the Narrative might not be printed; especially their Names, as Witnesses to attest the Truth. Some of these I have left out, which, possibly, few others would  
O have

have done, for what is openly discours'd in publick Coffee-houses, within the Hearing as well of Strangers as Friends and Acquaintance, not to one, nor at one Time only, but to one and Twenty, and so many Times over, is not *betraying private Conversation*. But leaving these, and returning to the Case, as one which I have receiv'd from *Canterbury*, is drawn up with the greatest Exactness, I intend the same shall stand in the Front, usher'd in by the following Letter.

S I R,

*I Have a Case that relates to the Use of crude Mercury, which is the Subject of much Discourse in this Country; and which, I believe, would answer the Character mention'd in your Advertisements. But though I have made my self Master of it, I can't well send it up by Lady-Day, because it is, as you will perceive, incompleat, till the present Month of March shall be expir'd. If it does not interfere with any Design of yours, to stay for it till the 3d or 4th of April, I will do my self the Honour to communicate it by a safe Hand.*

I am, good Sir,  
Your most obedient

humble Servant,

*Chr. Packe.*

Canterbury,  
March 18,  
1733.

To

To this I immediately wrote, as an Answer, that I was willing to stay for a Case so extraordinary, if it were to the end of that Month; however, on the Tenth, I think it was, I receiv'd a second very courteous Letter, with the underwritten Narrative inclosed.

*The CASE of Thomas Hukins, in the Parish of Great Chart, near Ashford, in the County of Kent, Labourer.*

**A** Person aged Forty five, an industrious, temperate, honest Man, of a sanguine Complexion, a sound athletic Constitution, and costive Habit of Body. In *March* 1727-8. was, upon taking Cold, as he supposes, seiz'd with a Difficulty of Breathing. His Respiration was sometimes interrupted with Catching, as if his Breath was set; at other Times with sudden Starts and Sallies, like convulsive Motions; but without any the least Pain in his Chest, or elsewhere. In this way he went on the greatest Part of the Summer following, being worst in the Heat of the Summer, but not so bad at any Time as to be taken off from his Labour; but about *Michaelmas* he grew better, and was so well through the whole Winter, that he thought it was all over. The next *March*, 1728-9. to his great Surprize, it return'd

with such Violence, that it quite disabled him, and threw him upon the Parish. However this, as before, abated about *Michaelmas*, enough to let him do now and then two or three Days work, but did not go entirely off, as in the last Winter. In the same Manner, but in a more violent Degree, it has seiz'd him every *March*, until the present Year, 1732-3. exclusive, beginning sometimes before the Equinox arising to its height; after an Abatement in the mild Month of *April*, in the Heat of the Summer, and declining about *Michaelmas*; only it grew worse and worse each Year, and left him so bad in the Winters, especially the last, that he was not able to do any Thing for his Bread, but was oblig'd to depend entirely upon a weekly Allowance from the Parish. But the severest Times of this general Paroxysm are the Months of *March* and *July*, at the Invasion, and the Height, in the former of which especially, when the Winds are Easterly, he is so short breath'd as to be in continual Apprehension of Suffocation, almost from the Time of its first seizing him till towards the End of the Month; and in the latter, his Breath is, during the Heat of the Weather, so exceedingly laborious, that it has been customary for Mr. *Hooker* and his Family to hear him puff like a broken winded Horse, from his own House  
down

down to *Hukins's*, which is an hundred Yards.

This terrible Distemper takes him first in *March* with a flush of Heat, then with an inward Coldness, not in any particular Place, but in the general Habit of his Body; but neither of them are very great, nor last very long; then succeeds the Difficulty of Breath, which encreases pretty quickly to such a Degree, that he can neither walk nor lie down, nor bend his Head backwards, nor eat nor drink any Thing for fear of Suffocation, except a little Sage, Penny Royal, Hyssop, or Ale-hoof Tea, or some such small Liquor; yet he is not sick, nor does he often vomit, when he does, it is only the Liquor he takes, without any ropy or foul Humours; nor is the Fit attended with any Cough, or Spitting of any moment, even during, or after its Extremity; but his whole Chest seems to himself to be very much straiten'd, as if his Lungs and Heart wanted room for their necessary Motions, and with them to be heaved upwards towards his Throat, with a Pain in his Back, in or about the Place where the Processes of the Midriff are inserted into the Spine; in this sad Condition he has been kept almost entirely out of his Bed for four, five, six, nay, once for fourteen Weeks together, being obliged to sit generally at the Window, for the

Benefit of the cool Air, both Night and Day, catching only now and then in his Chair a Nap of broken, restless Slumbers, which even, such as they were, he could scarce ever get before two or three a Clock in the Morning. In this Manner the general Fit, which is compos'd of many particular ones, proceeds from its Invasion in *March*, to its Decline in *September*, only he thinks (and it is his own Observation) that he is generally, if not always worst, a Day or two before, or after the full Moons.

During the Fit, and at all other Times, he is free from all Disorders of any Sort, except those on his Chest, which I have now describ'd; but as his Constitution is naturally costive, he is more bound in his Body at such Times, and more so, when he is at the worst; and when the Fit goes off, or rather (as the Case now stands) abates, about *Michaelmas*, there is no apparent Crisis, by Stool, Urine, Spitting, Sweating, Imposthume, Swelling, or other Ways, but it wears away by Degrees, and (to use his own Phrase) as it comes so it goes, as God pleases.

In this deplorable Condition he has made Use of such Medicines, as his low Circumstances could procure for him, from the Apothecary, and such as one or other of his good Neighbours directed him  
to,

to, which were not a few, he being a Person, for the Sobriety of his Manners, and the Industry of his Life, very well respected; but finding little or no Relief from any of them, except from Steel prepar'd with Sulphur, which he thought did him the most good of any Thing; and being tired with Variety of such useless Prescriptions, he had for seven or eight Months last past, given over all Medicine whatever, and resolved to trust the Remainder of his seemingly short and miserable Life to Nature alone; but hearing of late of the great Benefit which several Persons had receiv'd by crude Mercury, and particularly in Asthmatick Cases, and dreading the Return of *March*, he willingly fell in with the Advice, and enter'd upon the Course.

He began on the 6th of *Jan.* 1732-3. to take half an Ounce of crude Mercury, about six of the Clock in the Evening, an Hour before his Supper, and two or three before his Bed-Time, which he has continu'd to do ever since, without Intermision, except two Days, when he wanted a Supply: From that Time to this he has not perceiv'd any the least sensible Operation of the Medicine, either by Spitting, Sweating, Urine or Stool; only about a Fortnight after his first taking it he once found the Quantity of about four Ounces of it, as he guesses, amongst his Excrements,



and since that he now and then finds two or three globules of the clear Mercury in his Stools. Neither has he perceiv'd any the least ill Effect of it; no Shaking, Dizziness, Dimness of Sight, &c. in his Head, no Sickness, Stitches, Gripes, &c. in his Stomach and Guts, or other Bowels of the Belly; no Trembling, Numbness, Pains, &c. in his Limbs; but instead of these, or any other Sort of Disorder, it has been attended with a daily gradual Alteration in his whole Nature for the better; insomuch, that from the Time of his first taking it in *January* he found Amendment, and has passed through all *February*, and *March* hitherto (in which Month he has been to all Appearance dying these four Years) so well, that he has eat and drank his usual Diet pretty freely, kept his Bed a Nights, sleeps soundly the best part of it, is so lively and chearful in his Spirits, and so much stronger and active in his Body, that he now goes through his daily Labour with little trouble; and upon the whole, has but little to complain of, which is sometimes a Thickness of his Breath in a Morning for a while after his Up-rising, or when he walks against a Hill; and he finds that most Garden Stuff, particularly Cabbage, all roasted and fry'd Meats, Pancakes and Pie-Crust of any sort, still sit uneasy upon his Stomach; boil'd Mutton agrees

agrees with him the best of all Flesh Meats.

This was his Condition on the 16th of *March*, 1732-3. when I took it in Writing carefully from the Patient's own Mouth, in the Presence of Mr. *Hooker*, Mr. *Clark*, and Mr. *Bate*, to all whom the Person and his Case were well known before. But as I look'd upon the Case as incompleat till this Month was over, I took care to have a more particular Account of any Thing that should fall out in the Remainder of it.

Accordingly I saw him on the 25th, and was by him informed, that he was taken with a Shortness of Breath of the same Sort as used to afflict him early in this Month, *March* 21. yet nothing like it in Degree, he could keep his Bed, sleep well in it, bend his Head backward, eat and drink as usual, only in the main he found less Room in his Chest, and could not move much about without trouble; the next Day [22d.] he was something better, the next [23d.] worse again, the 24th he was better, and the next Day [25th.] better still; but being all this while bound in his Body, he took this Morning a little solutive Syrup of Roses, which gave him four or five Stools; and this Evening, when I was with him, he was so easy, that he thought it was going off, but on the 26th  
this

this Difficulty return'd to a higher Degree than the last Week, and with some short Intervals of Remission, has continued so ever since; however, he has as yet been nothing near so bad as he used to be in this Month; for, he has been able to keep his Bed a Nights, and sleep pretty well in it, only now and then he sits up an end in his Cloaths for a little while; at other Times, when he is up, he is easy, except when he walks or moves too hastily; so that though it has not yet proceeded so far as to lay him up, and disable him, yet he is oblig'd to work more leisurely, and with some uneasiness, but he found no Difference at all on the 28th or 29th instant, which two Days were so extraordinary hot, as to exceed most ordinary Days in *June*. All this while he was quite bound in his Body, and has seen not the least Speck of his Mercury except the 5th of *April* about an Ounce, which is more than he had seen (put all the Times together) since the 18th of *March*: This came with a well digested large Stool, which gave him much Relief, and the next Day [the 6th] when he walked from *Chart* to *Ashford* (which is two Miles) to meet me, he gave me this Detail of his Relapse (if it may be so called) he found himself now again better than he had been for a Fortnight past.

Now,

Now, in order to keep him open, and yet not interfere with his Course of Mercury, I gave him a Dose of Quicksilver Pills, which are either *Bellost's*, or something so near in Operation to them, that I think they are, to all Intents and Purposes, the same. These I order'd him to repeat once in five, six, or seven Days, according as he found that his Mercury did not come away, and as he was at the same Time uneasy in his Chest, not otherwise; and he is to proceed in the Use of his Mercury every Evening, as before.

Thus stands our Case on the 6th of *April*. What shall be farther observable, I shall be well acquainted with; not so much by such Accounts as I can receive from good Hands, as by my own Examination: As I have frequent Opportunity of going into that Neighbourhood, I shall only add, at present, a short Diary of the Weather, since his Relapse, which perhaps may be of some Use; but I think it proper first to remark, that these Pills are the first Medicine of any sort, that he has taken during the whole Course, except that gentle Purge on the 18th of *March*; for though he had, in *February* last, the late raging epidemical Cold, to some Degree; yet he steadily persisted in the Use of his Mercury alone, unassisted by any other Medicines, or Method of Cure whatever. And he is at this Time

so little discouraged by this (as he thinks it) slight Return of his Asthma, that with the occasional Help of these Quicksilver Pills, he resigns himself up to the continued Use of his Mercury, in reasonable Hopes of recovering by this safe and easy Specifick, a very good, if not a perfect State of Health.

Signed,

*Chr. Paske, M. D.*

*John Toke, { Esqrs. Church-wardens.*  
*Tho. Hooker, }*

*The Rev. Mr. John Clark, Rector of*  
*Great Chart.*

*The Rev. Mr. Richard Bate, Curate*  
*of Great Chart.*

*After a warm moist Season.*

*Saturday, March 1732-3.*

17. Morning fair, Afternoon Thunder, Rain, Hail violent.

18. Cold and windy, without Rain.

19. Full Moon, cold, raw, windy.

20. Fair Morning, Cold, Rain, Hail in the Afternoon.

21. Fair Morning, but windy; Afternoon a heavy Rain, Sleet and Cold.

22. Morning very windy and cold; Afternoon Rain, Hail, Sleet, Snow.

23. Fair

23. Fair Morning; cold raw Afternoon.

24. Warm but changeable all Day.

25. A hot, close, moist, cloudy Day.

26, 27. Very warm Sun, dry.

28, 29. Exceeding hot and dry, as any ordinary Day in *June*, and from thence to the 2d of *April* hot and dry, in a less Degree.

*April* 2. Dry, and somewhat cold; Wind shift to *N. E.*

3, 4, 5. Cold and dry Days; the Wind the same, and sometimes very sharp.

*P. S.* I had not an Opportunity of observing the Barometer well enough to compare it with the former Part of my Diary; wherefore I thought it would be of no great Signification to trouble you with the latter. Perhaps one might have found some Correspondence between the Mercury in that Instrument, and that in the Patient's Body, which might have given some useful Hints about the Use of this Drug; but I purposely forbear any Conjectures, and all Reasonings, which may prejudice any one, in his own manner of thinking, about this Matter. I have been careful to be exact in the Description of my Case, and leave it pure to the candid and ingenious Observer.

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*Sherington Grosvenor, Esq; of the Cheeshire Family, upon the sight of my publick Advertisement, sent me the following.*

S I R,

*I Have read your Advertisement; and if your Leisure would permit meeting me this Evening, at the Castle Tavern in Fleet-street, I have something to acquaint you with of the good Effects of Quicksilver. I am obliged to go out of Town to Morrow Morning, otherwise should have waited on you; who am,*

S I R, Your unknown

*Monday, March  
5, 1732.*

humble Servant,

*S. Grosvenor.*

In answer to this, I sent Word, by the same Messenger, that how fond soever he might think me of Quicksilver Intelligence, I did not think it worth my while to go so far from Home, especially being then towards Night; but that if he pleas'd to communicate the Case by Letter, or otherwise, I should take it kindly at his Hands. This good-natur'd Gentleman, however, putting off his Journey, came the next Morning to my House, and gave me the following Account.

That he had for many Months [if not Years, which I have forgot] been much troubled with swell'd Legs; and running Sores,

Sores, of the *Scorbutick* Kind, which gave him very great Uneasiness, still farther encreasing, and breaking out in fresh Places; that in order to his Cure, he had taken the Advice of the most eminent Men in our Way, who he named to me; that, by their Directions, he had tried many of our *Mineral Waters*, particularly the *Halt* and *Scarborough*; but, after several expensive Journeys, besides the many alterative Courses in Town and Country, his Distemper rather getting Ground, his Legs more swell'd, and the Blotches farther encreasing, he was advised to try *Quicksilver*; taking one Ounce every Day, which he did; and, after a Fortnight or three Weeks Time, found such remarkable Success, that he was vastly encouraged to go on.

When he came to me, he had taken, as I remember, about four Pounds: He turn'd down his Stockings, and shew'd me both his Legs, which, he said, were reduced one third of what they were before he began the Remedy; his Sores being all heal'd, with the Scabs thrown off, leaving only their *Stigmata* behind them, which were very numerous. He was perfectly easy, and so well pleas'd with his very promising Recovery, which seem'd indeed to want little of being compleated, that in his own Hand Writing, he left his Name, giving me the Liberty to use it [*a Condescension*]



*son I have rarely met with, even among this Gentleman's Inferiors]* where I thought convenient.

When I had communicated this Case of 'Squire *Grosvenor* to another Gentleman, whose Name I have not the same Liberty to use, and whose Case was more complicate, at least I thought it mix'd with a Taint of another Kind, well enough adapted to a Quicksilver Course, he resolv'd upon the same Experiment, and followed it close for a Month; but finding no Benefit, the Ulceration and Pustules still spreading over several Parts of his Body, and his Pains about his Arms and his Legs encreasing, he damn'd the Quicksilver, as an insignificant Remedy; and wanted to know my Opinion, why it had not succeeded with him, as well as Mr. *Grosvenor*? To which I could give no more satisfactory Answer than this: That as in a great Number of others, who had taken it ineffectually, it must probably have slip'd out as it went in, without reaching the Blood: He said he had read *Bellost*, who talks of the Quicksilver communicating some of its volatile Particles to the Juices of the Stomach, which they carry along with them, and make a noble Balsam for the Blood; and if so, whether or no it enters afterwards as Quicksilver into the Veins; he thought those *volatile Parts* and *fine Balsam* might have

have answer'd his Expectation. To this I was mute, and could only reply, that I was sorry the Balsam of his Blood had not been purify'd thereby. I then directed him an Electuary, with the *Crude Antimony, Æthiops and Gum. Guaj.* but his Stomach us'd to a great Quantity of spiritous Liquors, nauseating the same, he would not proceed in that Course; nor could I prevail for his Recess, in order to a *Salivation*. I then concluded to try the Quicksilver, though in another Way; I mean the *Pill*. This suited him the best of any thing, being only one single Pill, to be swallowed Night and Morning, without *Regimen*, which he immediately enter'd on; and, by taking only eighteen, has found not only a Disposition to the drying of the Ulceration, and crumbling away of the Scabs, but his Pains quite gone; so that there seems great Likelihood that so many more may accomplish his Cure; which if they do, or that the same should hold, I will give you Notice, as well of this as of some others, treated in the same Way, of whom I gave you an Account in my last.

A poor Woman from *Westminster*, whose Name she told me was *James*, very much afflicted with an *Asthma*, was advis'd [as others under the like Complaint] by some of her Neighbours, to take *Quicksilver*; for which Purpose she had bought a quarter of a Pound:

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They told her, if she observ'd her Stools, she might save most of it, which being wash'd, would serve to take over again: However by that Time she had swallow'd three Ounces, by half an Ounce twice a Day, instead of those Stools, she began to void Blood in pretty large Quantity, and clotted, but without Pain. Whereupon she desisted; and applying to an Apothecary hard by, who had heard, I suppose, of my *Advertisement*, he perswaded her to apply to me, not only for my Advice, but to give the Relation from her own Mouth. I ask'd her how she came to take so long a Walk to my House, under these Circumstances? She told me she came by Water, and was assur'd, by the Gentleman who sent her, that I would not think much to give her my Counsel, as she call'd it, what to do, and to defray that little Charge of her coming and going back. When I had assur'd my self that the Woman's Case was not feign'd, upon farther Enquiry, I found it was about a critical Time in Life, her *Menses* having been dodging with her for six Months before; but she assur'd me she never had them in so disorderly a way; nor was she ever incident to the *Piles*. I order'd her instantly to be let Blood in her Arm, and to take a Morsel of the following Electuary every six Hours, with five or six Spoonfuls of the Julep, after each Dose.

- ℞ *Conf. Rosar.* ʒ i.  
*Pulv. Rhei.*  
*Coral. Rub.*  
*Ter. Japon. pp.* ā ʒ i.  
*Syr. de Mecon. q. s. m. f. Elect.*  
 ℞ *Tinct. Rosar.* ℥ i. *fit pro Julapio.*

I then gave her a small Matter to pay for the same, with her Passage by Water back again, and order'd her to send me Word in a Day or two, how Things went with her, and I would satisfy any poor Body she sent for their trouble, if she could not prevail with the Apothecary to come himself. Three Days after this, Word was brought by a Neighbour, that the Bleeding which had stopp'd, was broke down afresh, and that she had voided two Chamber Pots full of clotted Blood, yet still without Pain. I then directed an Ounce of *Bark* with a Dram of *Rhubarb*, made into an Electuary with the same Syrup, of which she was to take the Quantity of a Nutmeg every four Hours, with a spoonful of the *Tinctura Styptica Helvetii* in four or five of Water after each, and one of the following Glysters to be thrown up Night and Morning during the same Time, which I told them [*in regard to the narrow Circumstances of the Patient*] how to prepare, by boiling four Ounces of *Oak-Bark* grossly bruised, and half as much *Pomegranate*

P 2

Rind,

*Rind*, in two Quarts of the *Smith's Forge Water*, to a Quart, for four Glysters. I satisfy'd the Messenger for her trouble, with Orders to let me hear from them if there was Occasion, and I would come to her my self; for having engag'd in the Enquiry, and in pursuit of the same, I would not have scrupled making this poor Creature a Visit, however two or three Miles from home, for my own Satisfaction as well as hers. I farther sent Word, that if she was ne'er so well, I should be glad to see her in a Fortnight or three Weeks time; and accordingly, about that Distance she came to return me her Thanks, telling me withal, that before the Messenger came back from my House she thought she must have lost her Life by the great Loss of Blood; but so soon as they could get a Glyster thrown up, it began to abate; and before she had taken out her Gallipot it stopt; yet to prevent a return, she not only made an end of that, but continued her Glysters also.

I had a great mind, by way of clearer Conviction, she should make a farther Experiment with the *Quicksilver*, and for that purpose assur'd her, that if any Accident should ensue I would come to her Assistance; but the poor Woman was so averse to any farther Trial that I desisted. She said she was confident the *Quicksilver* had brought

brought it upon her; and that, although under God, I had sav'd her Life, yet to run the same Hazard again, and that wilfully, would be tempting God Almighty to take it away from her. The good Woman's Argument, I must own, overcame; and I have been since, for the Peace and Quiet of my own Mind, well pleas'd that mine did not prevail.

The following being a Case of near Affinity with the foregoing, I have annexed it thereto.

A middle aged Woman practising Midwifery near *Fenchurch-street*, who for the same foolish Reasons with some others, must not, it seems, have her Name in print, came to me about the same Time, to acquaint me, that she had followed the new Mode of *Quicksilver* for an *Asthma*, which had been so exceeding troublesome, that she was forced either to sit upright in her Bed, and oftentimes in her Chair for several Nights, not able to lie down, nor at some times to follow her Profession, so that she was fearful she must quit the same. Mr. *Arnold* the Apothecary, late of *Salisbury Court*, being her particular Friend, had frequently eas'd her with *Ammoniacum* dissolv'd in *Penny Royal Water*, which he had instructed her to prepare herself, and sometimes she had try'd the *Oxy-*

*mel Scyllit*, at others large Quantities of the *Spirit* and *Salt* of *Hartshorn*, in various Mixtures, without any long Respite from her Complaint; but that, since she took the *Mercury*, her Fits return'd much seldomer, and were a great deal shorter, as well as easier to her; however, she was lately surpriz'd with an uncommon Appearance, or what she was never before used to, *viz.* after the taking of about four Pounds, sitting on the Pot as for a Stool, she had discharg'd a very large Quantity of Blood in black Clots, attended with no Pain: This had so exceedingly frighten'd her, that she had laid aside her Quicksilver, as apprehending the Blood to be some how or other the Effects thereof.

I inform'd my self of all other Circumstances relating to her Condition, and having so lately met with the like Accident, perswaded her to leave it off, at least for some Time; to draw off some Blood by the Arm, in the way of Revulsion, and to take as much *Rhubarb* as might give her two or three Stools, once in so many Days, for three or four Times.

I ask'd her what she had observ'd during the Time of her taking it, till this late Flux of Blood? She said, nothing more than an unusual Weight upon her Stomach, which was not so good as formerly, and a Head-ach, to which she was always before

a Stranger, and not us'd to those Complaints. I told her it might be accidental; she said she was in hopes so too, for being so much relieved in her Breath she had overlook'd all others, and had gone on with the same Remedy, had not this Flux of Blood deter'd her from the farther Prosecution.

Whilst this good Woman was talking to me, a Country Man from *Southampton* came in; he had heard, he said, of my *Advertisement*, and thought me therefore a proper Person to apply to for Advice. He said, he had been a Quicksilver taker, I think, about two Pounds [*for the Midwife standing by, told him, she had taken as much more*] for a Shortness of Breath, and had found wonderful Advantage thereby, in so much, that he could lie down in his Bed, which he had not been able to do for many Weeks; but he was since afflicted with Pains in his Head, and in his Limbs, especially one of his Arms, and his Hand on the same side felt numb'd, as if it were asleep, going off, and quickly after returning. I told him, he might possibly have got some Cold, and enquir'd, if these Complaints were new, or that he was sure, at no Time before, he had felt any Thing of a like kind. He said, he had no other Symptoms of any Cold upon him, and, that no Man was ever freer from Complaints of this, or any other kind,



hating his *Asthma*, than himself. He therefore told me, he should be very thankful if I would give him my Advice, whether he had best go on; and I perswaded him not, for some Time, for though his Head-ach and Pains of his Limbs might arise from other Causes, yet I knew not what to say of the Numbness. This Hint, I perceiv'd, had been given him by the Physicians in the Country, and he had been frighten'd, I am apt to think, with the Apprehension of a *Palsy*, which might ensue that Numbness. When I had given such Directions as I thought proper, they both took their leaves at the same Time; and I had an Opportunity of observing the opposite Tempers and Dispositions of certain Persons in the World; the Country Man was as pressing that I would take his Name [which he told me] as the Midwife was fearful I should publish hers. And, indeed, for want of taking his Advice, by entering the same down, before the next Day it had slip't my Memory. I remember well, I told him it was less material, but that, if any Thing of worse Consequence befel him, meaning if this Numbness encreas'd, or, that if either a whole, or half *Palsy* should ensue, which I hoped would not be his Case, if he sent me word thereof, by any Account drawn up from his Apothecary, I would readily assist him with my Advice.

I have one Letter out of *Bedfordshire*, from Esq; *Orlebar*, if that Gentleman bears not a higher Title; and if he does, I am to ask his Pardon, giving an Account of my Lady *Smith's* [of *Long Ashton* near *Bristol*] taking several Ounces of crude Mercury when she was quick with Child, on the Occasion of an *Iliac Passion*, and recovering thereby, though given over, *as they call it*, by all the Physicians in *Bristol*.

But this Case has nothing in it extraordinary, it was an ancient Practice you know at these Times, to give not only many Ounces, but many Pounds. *Bellost*, if I mistake not, speaks of seven, which he had given before the Obstruction could be removed, or the same force its way through. The Remedy being here directed for the sake merely of its *pondus*, and not, as the *Antidote* writer fondly dreams, for that of some other intrinsical good Quality in it for that purpose; in the room of which there have been some who have swallow'd leaden Bullets, in hopes of their making way, and reducing the peristaltick Motion, now revers'd, into its former State.

I once dissected an Iliacal Subject, who the Day before had swallow'd two Pounds of Quicksilver at one Draught, where upon examining the Intestines, I perceiv'd the whole Mass thereof upon the Obstacle in

the Gut, which was mortify'd all round about. This Accident I neither at that Time, nor since, did impute wholly to the Weight or Coldness of the Quicksilver, much less any change of Texture contracted by lying there, but to the intense Degree of the Inflammation and Convulsion, which brought on the deadly Symptoms, for the same Disease had seiz'd on the part below for two or three Inches, insomuch, that endeavouring to draw down that which was inverted, it was so rotten that it rent in one part thereof.

Another Letter from *Berkshire*, giving an Account of one Mr. *John Peters*, living some Miles from thence, and who, for a Lameness in one of his Knees, of long standing, was advised to take Quicksilver by a Spoonful every Night. When he had taken a few Doses he found himself much disorder'd, and sending for this Gentleman, *I found him (saith he) complaining of great Pain about the Bladder, and Parts adjacent: When he endeavour'd to make Water he trembled and sweated for near half an Hour together, voiding only a few Drops at a Time, and that of a slimy purulent Matter, which the Patient would have to be seminal.* But the Apothecary was of Opinion, that it came from the Bladder. *His Pulse was exceeding low, his Breath strait, and he told his Friends, that he had brought*  
all

*all this Mischief upon himself, and that another Spoonful would certainly have done his Business.* For it seems just before, setting aside his Lameness, he was a healthy strong Man as any in the Country, but survived not this Accident more than two Months.

In the Way of Postscript he observes, that abundance of People in the Country are taking Quicksilver, meerly out of Whym, and for no Disorder, that he can find, to which they have been the rather embolden'd, as finding neither good nor hurt thereby; one Person having taken it a long Time together, for a Cancer on the Tongue, but without any Benefit; he concludes thus,

*The Truth of this I am ready to justify whenever requir'd, who am,*

Sir, Your humble Servant,

*J. Savage, Apothecary in Newbury,  
Berkshire.*

It will be difficult to reconcile this Complaint to the taking of Quicksilver, and if the Patient was clear of any such before, as odd for an Abscess to form it self so suddenly on the *Prostate Glands*, or an Ulcer to be form'd in the Bladder, but evident, I think, that both the *Dysury*, and *purulent Discharge*, must from one of these receive its Origine. The Remedies directed by  
this

this Gentleman for the Patient I have omitted as less material.

But the following, surely, are Cases which carry with them greater Evidence, and plainer also.

A Gentleman I was sent for to some Time past, after taking of the Remedy, upon some other Occasion, was seiz'd with an universal *Erysipelas*, which was not without great Disturbance to himself, and a continu'd physical Discipline of some Weeks, removed.

When I communicated this Case to a worthy Fellow of the College, a Gentleman of the strictest Honour and Veracity, with whom I happen'd in Consultation, he told me, he had observ'd the like Accident in a Patient, for whom he was consulted, where there was not only a general Inflammation, but painful Exulceration also on the *Cutis* underneath; the *Cuticle* throwing off in large and sloughy *Desquamations*, the Soars still festering, as they call it, and mattering round about the same, so that there was some difficulty in getting them to Cicatrise, and Time spent in the healing of them up again. What is yet farther remarkable in this Case, the Patient not attributing this Mischief to his Mercury, after he was got well, enterprizeth the same a second Time, and quickly after the like Inflammation spread

spread over him afresh. If the Evidence from these Cases be not indubitable, I dare say you will allow they may justify a Suspicion, that the single Accident befalling one, and the double one of like Nature in the other, were not only the Consequents, but the Productions some way or other [*for I meddle not here with the δι' ὅτι*] of the Mercury just before taken.

I have receiv'd several Letters from other Places, but some of the Narrations therein so injudiciously drawn up, and others so very trifling, that I could by no means think them worth communicating. If the Remedy has been given upon the Decline of a Disease, or where others had been administer'd just before, which seems to have been the Case of some; the same has been deem'd chiefly, if not wholly, instrumental in the Recovery; on the other hand, if the Patient dies, although it be some Months after the taking of Quicksilver, it must be that which destroy'd him; so fluctuating, so uncertain, and of so little regard, is the Judgment pass'd at these Times by the unthinking Multitude. One says it has cur'd them of a Head-ach. Two or three, that it has brought such Disease upon them. One says, it has pall'd and taken away their Appetite. Another, that it has done more in strengthening their Digestion than all other Remedies whatever taken before.

But

But there are two Cases more, could I have got them fairly stated from the Persons concern'd, would have afforded equal Grounds for your Speculation, as well as distrust of this Remedy, from the Consequences of taking it. The one of a Tradesman, who having prosecuted the Course for a little Time, fell under exquisite Pain in the lower Belly, and a prodigious Inflammation or Tension of the *Abdominal Muscles*, attended with a plentiful Secretion of the *Saliva*, and a very stubborn *Ophthalmy* also, by which the Sight was for a long Time obscur'd, and the Recovery thereof at one Time thought irretrievable. The first of these Complaints was represented to me by the Physician, somewhat like the *Tormina*, happening oftentimes before the Advance of a *Ptialismus*, but with greater Distension of the outer Teguments. These Complaints were at length taken off with a narrow Escape of Life as well as of the Sight. By the way, this is not the only stubborn *Ophthalmy* or *Blood-shot* Eye, as it is vulgarly named, I have known, ensue the taking of this Remedy.

The other is of a Person in a publick Station, who had taken Mercury for an *Asthma*, and found (with certain others) great Benefit thereby; though at long run it was thought by those who attended him  
in

in his Sickness, that he paid his Life for it, languishing many Weeks, I might say Months, first of all under a large Drain of Lymph from the Glands of the *Fauces*, but with little Slough or Putrefaction therein, after which the Mandible was so lock'd up, that he could get down no Nourishment, unless with the utmost Difficulty; his Pulse continu'd low and depressed, with cold Sweats, and starting of the Tendons intervening; at length the Flux of Rheum abating, the Jaw again relax'd, but then the Humours were translated to the Glandules of the *Intestines*; a *Nervous Atrophy* all this while encreasing, and this latter Colliquation opposing all Endeavours, the Patient, at last, sunk under a Marasmus.

The same Physician attended both, and as I have heard him say, was convinc'd in his own Mind, that the Mercury had brought on, as well the dangerous Symptoms in the one, as the deadly in the other.

In order to the taking this latter Account I was referr'd by him to the Apothecary, from whom I had a Promise of a much fuller, than by a verbal Recital in casual Conversation I am able to deliver. How it happens that I am disappointed I must impute, surely, to his fear of disobliging the Widow, who the last Time I see him, I understood, was utterly averse to her



her Husband's Name being made publick, which was never intended. But this truly is the great Hardship we labour under, and which has given me so much Uneasiness, that I think never more to assume this Argument.

I have heard of Rumours from several Quarters of the Town, that I might have been furnish'd with divers Cases on both Sides of the Question, upon the taking Quicksilver in the modern way; but the Persons concern'd will not admit a Publication, even were I to promise, that neither their Names, Places of Residence, or their Occupations, should not be disclos'd in the Narration thereof; and I am sure, without their free Consent, it was never my Intention. I cannot think however, but that some People are to blame in Matters of so great Utility to the common Welfare, where their good Name and Reputation is no ways concern'd to conceal their Cases, at least, if their Names must not be brought upon the Stage; but so it happens, and he who is endeavouring to serve the Publick, does it often to the Prejudice of his private Interest.

I must give you one Instance of this, whilst I acquaint you, that some few Days past I sent to a Surgeon of my Acquaintance, somewhat remote from me, to beg him that he would refresh my Memory  
[the

[the Accident falling out near twelve Months past] how much Mercury such a Gentleman, with whom he and I were then concern'd, had taken, before the Accident appear'd, of which this honest Man innocently enquiring of the Patient, he discover'd some Warmth, and said, he resent-ed my having publish'd his Case already in Print, and so describ'd it, that although without his Name, several People had told him thereof.

The Truth is this, the Gentleman having taken about a Pound of Quicksilver, fell under a Complaint, which was justly suppos'd to take rise from the same, the rather, for that his Apothecary had formerly observ'd the like Malady had ensu'd upon his taking Mercury, though in another Form. This Accident had made some little Noise in his Neighbourhood; and I know not that he was sparing himself when he got abroad, of telling it to some of his Acquaintance. Be this as it will, a very imperfect Account was by some Means or other transmitted to the Author of the Treatise on Mercury, of which I knew not one Syllable, nor do I to this Day, know the Author of that Treatise. But that I may farther convince you how nice a Point I have to manage, I shall insert a Letter that was sent me a Week past.

Q

Dr.

Dr. Turner,

**I** Am inform'd you are about to publish some Accidents that have happen'd from the taking Quicksilver; if mine, as I am likewise told, has reach'd your Ear, I beg you either to suppress it wholly, at least not so to set it down, as that I may thereby happen to be expos'd, or injur'd in my Reputation, who am not the first Fool that has been dabling therewith, nor like to be the last. In hopes that you will gratify my desire herein,

I remain, Sir,

Your humble Servant.

Now, surely, should I tell the World, that this Gentleman took about 18 Ounces of crude Mercury for an imaginary Illness, and got a real sore Mouth thereby, I neither expose his Person nor hurt his Character, were it never so great, the rather, because he is not the only Person, as he says himself, by a great Number, who have been so serv'd by it, nor will any one find him out by this Description, who knew him not before, together with the Accident that had befall'n him. Another more foolish and impertinent, carrying a sort of Menace therewith, I shall take no further notice of, than to let the Person who sent it know, should this come to his

Hand,

Had, that I pity his Ignorance, but despise his Malice. Meaning, I am sure, no Harm to any one, but aiming at the general Good of Mankind, I fear none from the Resentments of those petulant Persons, some of whose Cases, though I have taken Notice of, I have conceal'd their Persons, to avoid giving Offence; although I think it argues a great deal of ill Nature in those who have it in their power to give Caution to others, yet had rather they should fall under the like Misfortune with themselves, which such publick Warning might have prevented. To proceed,

I was this Morning, *Monday, April 30.* call'd on by Mr. *Brooks*, an Apothecary in *Houndsditch*, to visit one Mrs. *Jones*, at a *Tallow Chandler's*, by the *Work-House*, in my own Neighbourhood of *Bishopsgate-street*; so soon as I enter'd the Chamber I smell'd the true Stench of a *Salivation*, and coming to the Bed-side, the Patient driveling therein with her spitting Pot under her Cheek, which with her Lips were much tumify'd or swell'd. Endeavouring to inspect the Inside of her Mouth I found it very troublesome, and could only perceive a little way on each side, the Cheeks deeply slough'd with putrid Ulcers, as in the highest *Salivation* rais'd by *Unction*; the Tongue fring'd all round the Edge with the same, and swell'd so much

that it was difficult, as well as painful to her to pronounce her Words in such manner as to be understood. This Appearance I found had been usher'd in with the Dysenteric mucous Dejections, and *Tenesmus*; heaving to Vomit, and all the other painful Symptoms, creating oftentimes very great Disquiet to the Patient, as well as Trouble to the Physician or Surgeon, before the Advance of the Flux. She was then got up to about two Quarts in Twenty four Hours, and like to hold it [*if she did not sink, being exceeding faint and languid*] through the longest Stage of a Salivation. Enquiring how much she had taken, and, for what Complaint? I was answer'd, about a Pound in all, after the usual Method recommended, for some scorbutick Ulcers on her Leg. I could only comfort her with an Expectation, that she might very probably receive some Advantage, though in a way altogether unexpected; and perswaded her to be as easy as she could, under a Remedy many People daily submitted to; though she, I dare say, would have been one of the last, had she apprehended what fell out. I hope the Advocates for taking Quicksilver will no longer say, that a very dangerous Flux can never happen in this way, or that any thing more than a small Heat in the Mouth, (as one of them expresseth himself)

will

will be ever produced thereby; let those foolish People, who are thus daily throwing it down their Throats, rashly and inadvertently, without any proper Advice, upon all Occasions, let them, I say, first make a Visit to this poor Gentlewoman, who thought as little of the Snake in the Grass as themselves, before they enter on the Course: By which they may be enabled at least to obviate the Surprise of, *Who would have thought it?* And admit the Accident should not befall one in fifty, yet as no Man can be assur'd he shall not be the unlucky Person [for as to his being strong or weak it makes no difference] a little better Advice than his own, in order to prepare his Body, if other Circumstances or Conditions thereof shall favour the same, as well as his Complaints, may happen to be of Service to him.

I was forced to act here with the utmost Caution, the Apothecary acquainting me of some Scouts, being out to get Intelligence, and that he knew the *grand Muster* had been inform'd of the Accident: So that the first Week I was only a Looker on, for had I directed one Grain of Medicine, Advantage had been taken thereof, and they might have said *we* had given somewhat that had encreas'd the Symptoms; but at the Fortnight's end finding the poor Woman sinking, her Sickness and Retching

continual, and fainting between whiles, I order'd her Nurse to throw up a Glyster of their own preparing, with a little Milk and Sugar (she being very costive) by way of Revulsion downwards of the Humours; and for the Relief of her Throat, where she was almost suffocated with her Phlegm, a large Blister between her Shoulders, which diverted the Rheum considerably by the next Day. As to Cordials or Volatiles, her Mouth was too tender to suffer any, not so much as a little simple Mint Water made warm, or Wine mull'd with half Water. She was all on Fire, she said, and raw, on the inside of her Stomach and Bowels, as well as in her Mouth; and nothing gave her more Relief than a soft Mufilage of the *Sen. Cydon. in Aq. Hordei cum Syr. de Althea*, a Spoonful of which, after holding a little while in her Mouth, she swallowed leisurely, and frequently repeated it; thus we went on for a Week longer, with lenient Glysters, and now and then a Draught, with two Ounces of *Aq. Lact. Alex.* half an Ounce of *Elect. Lenit.* and as much *Syr. Viol.* directed in *English* to the Nurse; for I wrote not once to the Apothecary all the Time of my Attendance, for the Reasons I have already given you. And I can sincerely declare to you, notwithstanding a great Patron for Quicksilver does assure you in his Antidote, *That*  
*these*

*these Sort of Salivations have always been found very slight ones, of a few Days continuance only, that I never had a Patient of my own salivated, either by Uñction, or any Mercurial Preparation, or where I have been call'd in by others, that more narrowly escap'd with Life \*.*

The following is a Letter from a Gentleman of the *Navy Office*, sent to a Friend, and by him communicated to me. The Patient had been for a long Time subject to throw up all his Nourishment, not so much on Account of ἀναρεξία, or loathing to Food, as from the δυσπεπσία, at least such an unfeebled Tone of the Coats of the Ventricle as would not suffer his Ailment to lie long enough for the Coction thereof. He had try'd many of the common corroborative Stomachicks, and had been at *Bath*, in hopes of Relief from those Waters; but these not availing any more than his former Prescriptions, he enter'd on the Method he mentions in his Letter, viz.

SIR,

*IN compliance with your Request, I am to acquaint you, That when I began to take Quicksilver (which was the 12th of Jan. last) and for a long Time preceding, I labour'd*

\* See the *Antidote*, p. 11.



*under Indigestion, with constant Uneasiness at my Stomach, subject to frequent Vomiting, sometimes three or four Times, but oftner seven or eight in the Space of twenty four Hours. I continu'd taking the Quantity of one Ounce every Morning for more than a Month, before I found a sensible Alteration, my Stomach then beginning to have a retentive Faculty for two or three Days together. I continued the same Quantity a Month longer, whereby I found the Disposition still mended, the Retention then holding five or six Days. I then doubled the Quantity, taking an Ounce Night and Morning, which I continued for six Weeks more; in which Time my Digestion was much mended, my Stomach continuing a good Disposition for three Weeks together. I then abated of the Quantity, taking one Ounce only, and that in the Morning, which I continued for about fourteen Days, then desisted taking any more, and now find my self in a pretty good State of Health, though I must confess, I dare not be so free as formerly I used to be, confining my self to Food light of Digestion, finding, if I eat any gross Meats or high Sauces [to which my Inclination is prompting] I still find an Uneasiness attending; but have no Reason now to doubt, but that by Caution and Forbearance only, the Tone of my Stomach will become as strong as ever.*

of Quicksilver. . . 233

P. S. *This I submit to your own Discretion, in making what use of it you think proper, and am,*

Sir,

Navy-Office,  
12th of May,  
1733.

Your most humble Servant,

H. J.

Were I to make any Comment on the foregoing Case, it would be the following Surmise, that whatever the Quicksilver could here effect, must be rather imputed to the *Pondus* thereof, keeping down the Fund of the Ventricle, and (as in the *Miserere*) restraining the inverted *peristaltic Motion*, than to any Property it can have to fortify the Digestion, or strengthen the Tone thereof. This I am the rather inclinable to believe, from the Practice of a very hard Drinker, who told me lately, that he found nothing more effectual in easing him of his Morning Retchings [which were apt to tear him almost to pieces, as he exprest himself] than the swallowing, before they came upon him, a spoonful of *crude Mercury*; for as to mending the Appetite, though several have told me it had somewhat blunted or taken off the Edge, as they call'd it, yet few or none of them, as I remember, that thought themselves the better *Trencher-Men* for the same.

From

From the foregoing Memoirs of Quick-silver you may now draw, if you please, the following Inferences, in the Way of Corollary.

*First*, That I am doubtful, whether one quarter Part of those that take it, are like to be, or can be the better for it; Or in plainer Terms, I question, whether in the much greater part, it slips not through the *Primæ Viæ* without entering into, or mixing with the Blood at all. 'Tis on that Account I rais'd my *Simile* of these Parts to the *crooked Funnel*, or its being taken in by many Persons at the Mouth, and after lying in the Stomach, or detain'd some Time in the Pleats or Foldings, the Turnings and Windings of the Guts, let out again, unalter'd, at the Fundament. This Supposition I have founded upon near 50 Memorandums, 17 [*exclusive of Dr. Packe's*] have been *Asthmaticks*, of which, all who have receiv'd Benefit, about [4 or 5] I have here enter'd, with the unhappy Symptoms attending some even of these; the rest have solemnly protested the Remedy [*tho' I think it was not such to them*] had done them neither good nor harm. I have seen Venereal Patients, not one of which would own, nor had they any Reason, as I could find, that they were either better or worse for it, alledging the same Reason, its Entrance above and slipping out below, with-

without calling in by the way. I have about the same Number with Sores and Ulcers of divers Sorts, two of which it salivated, one it cur'd without acting only the part of an Alterative; I mean the Esquire; being attended with no sensible Evacuation; on the others it made no Impression either good or bad. The Remainder of these 50, have been for Complaints in the Stomach and Bowels, Indigestion, Cholicks, Worms, but of the Brain surely, rather than the Belly; one of these last made heavy Complaints to me, that the *Quicksilver* was got up thither, and had weaken'd his Sight. How far this poor Man may be right in his Conjecture, must be left to Time: I order'd him a Purge, a Blister for his Neck, and some Gum Pills, with *Camphor* and *Volatile Salts*; but have heard nothing of him since. I shall have no Reason to enter farther into a Detail, since you may conclude, what I have not inserted, or pointed at among the Cases, whatever their Complaints were, have been neither better nor worse for taking of it.

*Secondly*, You may infer, that I am alike doubtful, Whether the *Quicksilver*, whilst it lies in the Stomach, communicates any Virtue to the Chile? I mean, any of those fine *Volatile balsamic Particles* some Gentlemen talk of; because, were it so, there could be none, surely,  
who

who take it for any considerable Time, but what must find Advantage thereby, even upon the Supposition, that the Globules never enter'd the *Lacteals*, or got into the Blood. We have many Hundreds, for ought I know, of late, who are never without Mercury in their Stomachs, for many Months together, and yet, how small is the Number of those, who can tell you truly, after leaving it off, that they have received any the least Advantage from it, either in the Way of any Evacuation, or simply as an Alterative, an *Edulcorant*, or *Absorbent*? And those who have, may, very likely, gain that Advantage by the deobstruent Force of some substantial Particles admitted into the Vessels, as well as from these supposed Volatile balsamic ones, mixed with the *Chylous Juice*.

*Thirdly*, You will find these Doubts still farther encreased by the very great Uncertainty of the Effects it produceth, in this way of taking it, *i. e.* whether it shall do good or harm? Whether good only, or with some Injury otherwise over-balancing that good? Whether in Expectation of this good, it may not hurt the Patient, without doing him any good at all? Or finally, whether it may do neither good nor harm?

I have met with Instances of each of these; if it be objected, that some of them are not absolutely conclusive, I can only  
answer,

answer, that I have propos'd none of them as such. You see that I enter them as my own Doubts, and leave others to declare their Sentiments. My Business is only to state the Facts, as they have presented, and leave them to publick Censure, without delivering any Thing relating to them in a way *dogmatical*. I never intended this for more than an *Essay*, and to apprise People, who run at all Adventures upon the taking of Quicksilver, what has been the Consequence. As it is manifest that some have receiv'd Benefit, particularly the *Asthmatick*, without any perceptible Inconvenience, so it is as indisputable, that many others have receiv'd none; and what is worse, that some have been really injur'd by the same; whence, *I mean the great Uncertainty of the Issue*, you may infer,

*Fourthly and Lastly*, That I cannot think it proper, as a very sanguine Gentleman adviseth, to be admitted into Medical Prescription; neither yet, that it should be taken thus rashly by all Sorts of People, running now upon it, without consulting the Physician, who, though he writes it not in Form, may, after duly weighing all Circumstances, either favour the Enterprizing thereof, or discountenance the same, at least setting Consequences before the Patient, leave him to his Option; and

and if nothing falls out amiss, the worst that can be said of him will be this, that he was over timorous. If any Accident should happen, it will be then own'd, that he behav'd as a very prudent and a very honest Man; and were the Odds much greater than they are against such Accidents so falling out, yet since it is in no Man's Power to prevent it at all Times, a judicious Man will so far guard against the same, as letting his Patient understand what has happen'd, does amount to.

I have heard there are People weak enough to imagine, that Physicians will rather discountenance this Practice, for fear their Fees should fall short by so easy a Cure. These have taken up the same Opinion of us, as of the most *Mercenary Quacks*; not considering, that it is the greatest Honour to a Physician, and the greatest Credit to the Art, to make his Patient as few Visits as possibly he can, and to dismiss himself, would the Case allow, even after a single *Fee*. This, I say, is the greatest Honour to Physick, and the greatest Encouragement also for People, even in the lower Rank, to call early for his Help. This, Sir, I have often publicly declar'd not only to you, but to all Apothecaries of my Acquaintance; and if I disoblige, 'tis sometimes that way, viz. by dismissing my self earlier than was expected;

pected; which I the rather take up with, than to have it said I had fasten'd on them like a Leech, or made them Visits they might think there was no Occasion for; which I hint only by the way, to wipe off that pitiful Reflection, cast upon us by some strenuous Advocates for the bringing this Remedy into common Practice, of whose dubious Issue, or uncertain Effects; no Man can acquaint himself before hand, let his Judgment be as great as may be. If the Physician had prescrib'd *Quicksilver* for Esquire *Grafvenor*, in order to the Cure of his swell'd, ulcerated Legs, and had warrant'd him a safe and easy Cure thereby, as it fell out, he would, undoubtedly, have had the Esteem of a Man of great Foresight, of great Judgment and Skill in his Profession; and yet, had the same Physician prescrib'd this Remedy for the poor Gentlewoman in my Neighbourhood, now under a most painful Salivation, whose Case gave as promising Encouragement, he must have expected no better than the Name of a *Pretender* to Physick, or that of a very ignorant Man in his Profession.

There are two Propositions laid down by the *Mercurialists*, which, I think, are not solidly founded, nor agreeable to Truth; the one is, that Mercury, whilst it retains its spherical Figure, can do no Mischief,  
how



how long soever happening to be so retain'd in the Body. If the Gentlemen mean any corrosive Property, whilst under that Figure, we agree; but if they say, it cannot hurt by encreasing the Momentum of the Blood, or by its own *Pondus*, that it will never force the tender Vessels of some weak and broken Constitutions, I am not so well satisfy'd herein; being convinc'd by Experience, that some large Effusions of Blood, breaking by these Means out of their Channels, have been occasion'd; and for this Cause I would advise all those who have a Regard to their Health, not to meddle with this Remedy under feverish Effervescencies of the Blood, or where there is great Heat, and an over bearing Pulse; no Hectical, Hemoptical, Dysenterical, or others leaning to such Habits, or liable to those Symptoms, ought to meddle therewith; none subject to great Profusion of the Menfes, bleeding at the Nose, or by any other part of the Body; in short, in no inflammatory Disorder, whether on the Membranes, or Substance of the Viscera, neither in any *Plethorick* Habits, or where there is a too great Fullness of the Vessels; especially without suitable preceding Evacuation, or Depletion thereof; This Remedy being best fitted for those whose Fibres are tense and strong, who have sound Viscera and sound Vasa also; for these,

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these, if any Accident should happen, are better able to stand the Shock, than the crazy Constitutions of Dram-drinkers, and Debauchees, either with Wine or Women.

The other is this, that the Reason why the Quicksilver loses this Figure, as in *Salivations* for the *Venereal Disease*, is, that meeting with the poisonous Salts thereof, and incapable of disengaging themselves; they are carry'd together with the *Lymphatick Liquor*, in which they float, to the *Glandules* of the *Fauces*, whose Ducts they burst open, and discharge themselves in a Rivulet of the *Salival Juice*; as if this Flux we call a *Salivation* had never happen'd to any unless *Venereal Patients*, or that no other Salts but these could combine and associate with the Particles of Mercury in such a Manner as to divest them of their globular Figure, and produce this Colliquation in the *glandulous Liquor*. Let them single out the best temper'd Constitution they can find; one, who they may be sure never had the *Venereal Disease*, and rub in the same Quantity of the Quicksilver as is usual therein, they shall find the same Disorder rais'd in the Blood, the like Gripings in the Bowels oftentimes; or taking more readily with the Lymph to the *Salival Glands*, the same putrid Stench and Ulceration of the Parts of the Mouth;

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the like Stream of *Saliva*, and as long continued, as if the Person had been infected with the foul Disease; a plain Evidence that *Quicksilver*, as well crude as prepar'd, will find Salts of one kind or other in all Habits of Body, to change its Texture, and produce this Appearance at some Times.

I have been credibly inform'd of a Child absolutely suffocated this way, by the wearing a *Quicksilver Girdle* for the *Itch*. And have seen as plentiful a Salivation in a grown Person, upon the same Experiment, as ever I rais'd my self designedly by the *Uction*. Here there is no other Subterfuge for these Gentlemen, than to surmise, that the Poison of the Distemper, or the itchy Salts, lay hold of the *Mercurial Globules*, and break their Texture; or that Dr. D——r's *Vermiculi* surrounding them, are together carry'd up to the Mouth, where they make strange Havock, by preying upon the Gums, the Cheeks, Tongue, &c. setting the Sluices open. But enough upon this Head of the *Salivation*.

This being the true State of the Case, no wonder Physicians should be a little shy in taking this Remedy into common Practice, or prescribing the same after the Manner of some others, in whose Vertues and Operations they have more Satisfaction.

tion. You see they cannot be certain, *First*, That it does at all Times get into the Blood; nor, *Secondly*, That it makes any Alteration in the Chyle, whilst lying in the Stomach; when at these Times it is prescribed to no purpose. *Thirdly*, Should it pass the *Lacteals*, and mix with the Blood in the smaller or greater Quantity, they are not certain but that in tender Habits, and an over lax State of the Vessels, as well as some others we have just now observ'd, it may not do more hurt than good, even from its own *Momentum*, without changing of its Texture. And, *Lastly*, Though such Accident does not often fall out, no Man who directs it can be absolutely certain that it shall not lick up some Salts, which may alter its Texture, and bring on a *Ptyalismus*. I hope now the Gentleman who seems so angry, that Physicians will not take the Remedy into constant practice, will be less free in his Reflections, and content himself in recommending it to all his Friends and Acquaintance; upon the Expectation they may find the same Advantage he has reap'd from it. If they succeed he will be sure to have their Thanks; if not, his Character is not hurt; he meant well, and that's sufficient; or, if his diffident Friends desire farther Counsel than he seems qualify'd to give them, there is no Physician un-

willing to encourage the Trial, if he finds not any manifest Contraindicants to the Experiment, whether in the Nature of the Disease, or his Temperament of Body; or if his Assistance should be wanted, from any unexpected Accident, that will deny it him.

Thus, Sir, You have my Thoughts, with what Observations I have been able to collect, in respect to our present Subject. I shall be glad, if they may afford any Hints for carrying on the History to a more publick Advantage; but really, when I reflect upon the Difficulty of treading an uncommon Path, one, which if ever plain, has been obscur'd, and lost in a manner by length of Time: As I have given over the Pursuit my self, so neither can I encourage any Gentleman to set upon the undertaking it a-new, till he finds Practitioners more ready to communicate their Observations, and Patients less shy of their Names being publish'd, especially after Disappointments. You see how I have been used by some of both Sorts. I have been promis'd Cases of the greatest Importance, in giving Light to this History, faithfully drawn up: I have been assur'd by the Physician, that there was all imaginable Reason to impute the Death of some, and the greatest Hazard of Life undergone by others, from the taking of this  
Reme-

Remedy, besides what I have seen my self, but neither the Physicians seem willing to have their Names mention'd; nor have some Apothecaries been mindful to perform their Promise, for fear, I think, they should disoblige the Friends and Relations of the deceas'd, or the Persons themselves who have escap'd the Danger of a rash Experiment, they may not care should be known abroad. When I ask'd a certain Gentleman for leave to set his Name to a Relation he had made in publick, for ought I know, twenty Times over, he thought there was no Occasion, and desir'd I would not: The Case, he said [*meaning one of the antient Physician's Cures*] carry'd along with it a Self-confutation, and no Person of Sense would take it for any other than a *Romance*.. As to the Patients themselves, you see how I have been serv'd by some of them: One importunes me not to mention either his Name or his Case; another threatens, I shall fare the worse for it if I do; so very fearful, and, I think, I may say, so very foolish also, have some been, that after they have publickly told their Acquaintance, they thought they had kill'd themselves from taking Quicksilver, by a Dysentery or Bloody Flux ensuing: Upon my coming to inform my self they have strangely prevaricated, and so soon as they apprehended I should make a publick Use

of the Case; they have shuffled, and made light of it, nor would they for five Hundred Pounds have their Names in print; though possibly not worth a fifth Part of the Sum. One Person particularly, whose Name with great Regret, I own, I now conceal, as deserving to be expos'd either for Knave or Fool; among Persons of the greatest Probity, and the strictest Veracity, tells his Story, how, after taking Quicksilver, he had voided much Blood by Urine. Being minded to have a true State of the Case, I sent an Apothecary of my Acquaintance to wait upon him at his House; the Man, doubtless, under the same Jealousy with the foregoing, not only makes light of it, but absolutely denies his own former Relation, and tells my Friend, he had been troubled with pissing of Blood formerly; nay, that he had rather voided less Blood since he took the Quicksilver, so that there was no need for People to trouble themselves about him or his Malady.

About a Week past I had Word brought me, that a Gentlewoman out of the City, was remov'd very privately to *Newington Butts*, by the Advice of a Physician, who had either order'd Quicksilver, or approv'd of its being taken for an *Asthmatick* Illness; upon which she was grown dark of one Eye, and prejudiced somewhat as to the  
Sight

Sight of the other. I sent a Messenger thither, to see what might have given Occasion to the Story, but have not yet been able to inform my self of the Case; my Friend could learn nothing of the Matter. No better Success have I met with my self in some of these Enquiries, though I am sure I should have been much better pleas'd to have heard of any one who had recover'd their lost Sight thereby, as I have of one who hath fruitlessly try'd it on that Occasion. At one Place where I was enquiring, after they knew my Business, I was sent about it with a short Answer, of, Sir, *Here's no body wants to be made Books and Ballads of.* Which induces me sometimes to believe, that others concern'd, have been with them before hand, to perswade them not to let any one know of their Misfortunes, if they can avoid it. In short, Sir, Whoever is minded to serve his Neighbours this way, let him set out with never so innocent a Design, must expect to meet with the same Treatment as the low Life Biographer at *Newgate*, who endeavours to extort from those poor Wretches under Condemnation, their Births and Parentage, with all the thievish Pranks they have play'd from the taking up the Trade, till he takes leave of them at the Gallows. *Some of them will confess, but others will not.* I am sure the Enquiry on our Side



is of great Use to the Publick, but on his, of no other than to turn the Penny for the *Parson*. I never heard of any Villain reform'd by reading of the Life and Parentage, nor yet of the roguish Exploits of such another as himself, but rather furnish'd, perhaps, with some new Instructions, he had not otherwise thought of, to perpetrate the same wicked Actions. Whereas there are few People, who had heard of some dangerous Accident from the taking Quicksilver, which was well attested by the Persons themselves who had been the Sufferers, that would not be deterr'd thereby or caution'd against it.

But now, Sir, though I have been snub'd and treated as a Spy by some, refus'd the Sight of others I wanted to talk with upon this Affair, or rudely entertain'd by them, when they knew my Business; yet I have met with two or three Relations, which have afforded me not a little Diversion; the one of them I intend you shall partake of.

When I was about sending these Sheets to the Press, two ordinary Women out of *Grays Inn Lane* [they told me] came to my House; the one of them said, her Mother was kill'd by taking Quicksilver, and that she had charg'd her upon her Death-bed, she should forewarn all Persons from meddling therewith. I thank'd her for her  
Kind-

Kindness, in coming so far to forewarn me, but that she might have spar'd that trouble, for I believ'd I should never meddle with it. Wanting to have a little more Diversion, and to know the Drift of the Story, I ask'd what her Mother's Distemper was, she said, she took it for an *Affema*, and Pain in her Bowels. I then enquir'd, what Business she follow'd, and understood she kept a Chandler's Shop, and sold a Dram, which she own'd (upon a farther Enquiry) she was oblig'd to have frequent Recourse to for that Pain. I now wanted to know what ensued the taking of the *Quicksilver*, and how much she had taken; and was answer'd, after near two Pounds in about a Fortnight's Time, she fell into a *Jaundice* and *Dropsy*, her *Affema* growing worse from the first Day of her taking it, till it had quite kill'd her. I now inform'd her, that she must be surely mistaken, for that her Mother had kill'd her self with Gin rather than *Quicksilver*. There, she said, I was out, for she drank none but the best *Rum* she could lay her Hands on; and every body knew that good *Rum* was a great Healer. I could not forbear smiling, nor would you, had you been with us; and once more assur'd her, it was the Dram, whether *Rum* or *Gin*, had done the Execution. This put my Customer into a little Heat, and she reply'd roundly, I would have it so,

so, to with-hold the *Reward*. Pray, Mistress, says I, What do you mean by this *Reward*? Why, says she, to tell you the Truth, *I was inform'd, there was a handsome Reward for those who could inform Dr. Turner, in Devonshire Square, of any Person who had been kill'd by taking Quick-silver, which my poor Mother was, as sure as I am alive; I will take my Oath of it, if you require me.* I bid her have a Care of Oaths, for she might be perjur'd by such an Oath. I enquir'd, however, how she came by this Information of the *Reward*, and she answer'd me, it was one that understood the Law, and that would stand by her also. Whence I plainly perceiv'd, the silly Creature had been put upon this Visit to me, by some who had seen my Advertisement, purely for Diversion. You must easily think it was such to me; and now to get rid of her I took her up short, without convincing her to the contrary as to the *Reward*, that she was entirely misinform'd, for that the *Reward* was for those who brought Word that their Lives had been saved by taking Quicksilver, and not those who had been kill'd thereby. Upon which my Chap-Woman went away grumbling as one disappointed.

Do you judge now, what Encouragement a Man has to prosecute this Enquiry? (how great or mean an Opinion

mon ſoever he may have of the Remedy himſelf) for the Benefit of Mankind. I have purpoſely wav'd the taking Notice of thoſe Caſes which have been very lately publiſh'd on the ſame Topick, that it might not be ſaid I had taken any Intelligence, or borrow'd a Story, already deliver'd in print, to furniſh my own Account. I acknowledge I have read the *Treatiſe of Quickſilver*, as well as the *Antidote*, both which I ſent you down. The Author of the *Treatiſe* has behav'd, ſurely, like a prudent Man, in cautioning the unwary Multitude, how they run headlong, or without proper Advice, upon a Remedy, which may hurt as well as help them. The *Antidote*, like a raſh Gentleman, ſuſh'd with the Succeſs of his own Recovery, or who knows nothing more of the Matter, than that the ſame having done him and many others good, he would therefore have all People try it upon his bare Word, that it can hurt no body; and, *That the Danger which has been aſſerted of taking it crude, [that is, in the Way he would recommend it] is not ſupported by Facts, or by Reason; and that in treating promiſcuouſly of Mercury Crude, and its various Preparations, all the evil Conſequences which often attend it when prepar'd, are aſſigned to the Crude, in order to alarm Peoples Fears, and deter them from this innocent and very efficacious Practice.*

*Practice* \*. What Facts this Gentleman wants, or will allow, I know not. I should think the Fact of a Twenty Days Salivation, ensuing the taking a Pound of crude Mercury, after the Way he took it himself, with the most racking Symptoms that ever attended any churlish Preparation of Mercury, and worse than usually fall out from the *Uñction*, the *Tormina Ventris*, the dire *Spasms on the Præcordia*, the *Καπλόγυμνα*, the perpetual Sickness and Heavings from the Stomach, the returning Syncope and cold Sweats. I might say, almost, every Thing, unless Death it self, that such a Fact as this, if there were no others, might be sufficient to deter the People (*however it alarm'd their Fears*) from being over-hasty in meddling therewith. This Fact will be as sufficiently attested, as any Cure by Quicksilver ever was; I might say, in some Respects, much better, for it may be said of some of these, the Patient might have found the same Alteration, the Distemper wearing off it self (as many Times happens) if the Remedy had not been taken; whereas here is a poor Gentlewoman has her Life brought into the most imminent Danger, where no other Cause than the same Remedy could have brought about the Effect.

\* See the Title Page of the *Antidote*.

I have seen likewise (*as I told you before*) the Encomium of the *Trinity Gentleman*, who some Persons give out, is the learned Physician that hath publish'd Remarks upon the Legacy, among which, at the close, stands this following, *viz.*

“ From all the Doctor has laid down in his Treatise, it appears, that he perfectly understood the Distempers that he treats of; and where any of his Prescriptions may appear a little (*he might have said surely a great deal*) harsh, it is to be supposed, as he declares, that the Doses or the Practice must be lessen'd to those People who have tender Constitutions. On the whole, I esteem the Work to be founded on as good Principles as any of the Kind yet published.”

Whatever Learning this Gentleman may have shown in these Remarks, his Judgment in Physick will be certainly question'd by all those who have any tolerable Taste for that Art. I rather think, if not made by the Editor himself, they must be done by some Novice whom he hath hired, and thus dignified himself, and which have been publish'd in the Way of Atonement for his pyratrical Copy, that has reduced the *five Shilling Legacy* to a Book of two Shillings Price, with *Bellost's* into the Bargain.

But

But is it not strange, Sir, that these Gentlemen should carry on a Parallel between *Belloſt's* Method of giving Quickſilver, and that of the antient Phyſicians?

*Belloſt's* Doſe of Quickſilver in each Pill; is, at the utmoſt, fifteen Grains; the antient Phyſicians four Hundred and eighty; the former is prepar'd by continual Trituration, with ſome viſcid or tenacious Body; till it is brought into the moſt minute and imperceptible Particles: The latter is ſwallow'd down in the Aggregate or Maſs, and uſually ſlips out again, we have reaſon to believe, as it enter'd, without reaching the Blood. Beſides this, *Belloſt* has mix'd a Purgative with his Quickſilver, which being bound up together by the ſaid Viſcid; after a gradual Solution in the Stomach, is along with the Chyle readily carried into the Blood-Veſſels, and thence to the whole glandular Compages, whoſe Obſtructions having open'd, it is convey'd back again with the offending Humours, out of the Body; and this without any Hazard or Inconvenience afterwards thereunto.

It is by this Pill, and not by the undivided Maſs, that *Belloſt's* Cures were all perform'd; as you will find in the Relation he has given us of them; and as any Perſon may experience in the like Caſes, that will make Uſe of it, and encourage it (as it ought to be) in many ſtubborn *chronical*  
Difeaſes;

Diseases, especially *Glandular*, as well as others, whether *Scorbutick* or *Venereal*.

There is this Difference, indeed, between *Bellost* and the ancient Physician, that the former has endeavour'd to conceal from the Publick a very good and useful Remedy, which ought to be made known to all the Sons of Art, and which, I hope, will be henceforward no longer a Secret, whilst the antient Physician, on the other hand, has divulg'd one which he ought not, at least without acquainting those, who upon his Recommendation shall think proper to try it, with the great Uncertainty of its Operation, as well as those Accidents which have at sometimes attended the Enterprisers thereof.

But why should People be so fond of taking the undivided Quicksilver, which in that Form is so prone to pass through them, *re infecta*, or if entering the Blood, so liable to injure them one way or other, as well as help them, when that which is divided, and thus mixed with a gentle Purgative, is much more certain, and far more safe; nor do I know any one Case, where the undivided Quicksilver has been of any Service, not even in the *Asthma* it self, in which I should not prefer that which is thus divided. I am sure I have often experienc'd, that two Drams of Quicksilver thus directed, has avail'd, when some  
Pounds



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Pounds of the fluid Mafs had been swallow'd to no purpose.

The Trials, indeed, that I have chiefly made therewith, I have already told you, have been in *Venereal Cafes*, and *Cutaneous Eruptions*; where intending it rather as an *Alterative* than a *Purgative*, I add no more of the latter than may juſt keep the Body open; that is, I give it as the Surgeons frequently do their *Calomelanos*, to lodge ſometimes for Twenty four or Forty eight Hours, and then purge off. Nor am I ſurpriz'd if it ſometimes makes the Gums a little tender, any more than my Patient, beforehand acquainted with what may happen; if ſo, I lie by for a few Days, and give the Purgative by it ſelf, when the Complaint goes off without Confinement; although, as I hinted formerly, if I can prevail, or my Patient's Circumſtances will admit, I encourage a gentle Colliquation this way, by proceeding with the mercurial Pill for a few Days more [*for in this Method a Man has it always in his Power to uſe either the Bridle or the Spur*] that I may be yet more certain of his Cure.

This Pill, I told you, I prepare with two Drams of the crude Mercury ground with half a Dram of *Terebinth*, till 'tis loſt, then adding half a Dram of *Pil. Coch.* Min. of which I uſually make a Dozen Pills,

Pills, each containing fifteen Grains. In other Cases where I aim more at purging, as in *Obstructions of the Glands, in cold, phlegmatick, congested Tumours, or the like,* I direct three Drams of Quicksilver to be ground with a Dram and half of *Diagredum* in a marble Mortar, and after to be reduced to a Consistence with the *Syr. de Spina*, adding two or three Drops of *Ol. Macis*, as a Corrector of the *Diagredum*; or which might do as well, to make up with the *Balsam Peru*; of this I give from a Scruple to half a Dram, once or twice a Day; *secundum vires, velates de Modos operationis*; for a shorter or longer Continuance, as I find Occasion: And if this is not *Bellost's* individual Pill, it is absolutely, to all Intents and Purposes, equivalent.

This way taken it is not so likely to affect the Mouth; and though a Fluid less viscid than the *Terebinth* makes the Work easier to the Pestle, or the Person who manages the same, in the Reduction of the Globules into those fine *Moleculæ*: Yet the latter surely binds them faster, and lets them go more leisurely to be incorporated with the Juices of the Stomach; which way of their Preparation may be render'd still more facile by a few Drops of the *Ol. Amygd.* instill'd at the Time of working; and the less of either of these adhesive or tenacious Bodies you can take it up with

the better ; for the less bulky, with equal Virtue, will be your Pill.

But I forget, certainly, that I am making my *Postscript* as long as my *Epistle*, and therefore shall subjoin only a few Words to take off, or at least to lessen any Person's Resentment whatever against the preceding Discourse.

I have already publickly acknowledg'd, that I have no other Views than the common Good and Benefit of Mankind in general ; and if in pursuit thereof I happen to differ in my Sentiments from some few, I flatter my self, that I have the greatest and best Practitioners on my side. I am sure it is not Prejudice to Persons that makes me differ from them, for if your self, my good Friend, or any other in that Number, should advance a Notion in Physick, by which any young Professor of our Art may be led into any dangerous Practice, or the People [setting up for their own Physicians] tempted to try Experiments hazardous to their Lives ; I should think it my Duty, as you observe to me, not only in private, but publickly to declare against it ; and if the antient Physician himself thinks that I have not made good my Charge against some Particularities in his Practice, if not his whole System, I am always ready to submit to our Superiors in the College, and will abide their

Censure, being as willing at all Times, and as publickly also, to retract an Error I am convinc'd of by a right Method of Reason and solid Argument, as I have been to accuse.

*Finally*, If any *Advocate* for *Quicksilver* should be displeas'd, that I have not said so much as they expected, in regard to the Recoveries wrought thereby; the Answer is ready, I have told them all I could, I have conceal'd nothing from them that I knew or have heard of: If they wanted more to be said in its Commendation, they should have order'd their Friends to have furnish'd more Intelligence.

If, upon the whole, they find the Bias of my Judgment to run counter to their own, I have given my Reasons why it does so, and candidly imparted all I know, either for or against it, so far as relates to Facts; which whether or not satisfactory to Bigots, Cavillers, or illiterate Contenders for it, will, I hope, excuse me with impartial Judges, and the more considerate Part of Mankind: Let this happen as it will, if any Person shall think fit to raise new Objections, they may use their Liberty, I can assure them for my own part, unless some other shall re-assume the Controversy, they will have the whole Argument to themselves, and may manage accordingly.

*Farewel.*

The second LETTER relating to *Hukins's* Case, coming too late for its proper Place, is here inserted.

S I R,

**T**HE long Account of *Hukins's* Case, which I sent you last April the 8th, left him upon the Return of his Asthma just entering upon the Use of a Quicksilver Pill. I am now to inform you, according to your Desire, That he afterwards grew worse; he lost his Stomach and Strength; his Breath became so thick that he could do none but very gentle Works, nor walk any Distance without much Fatigue; he was so uneasy at nights, that he was obliged to sit up often in his Bed; and was only not so bad as to be troubled with his suffocating Fits, or his hard Respiration, which I described in the former part of his Case. During this Disorder he had taken but two Doses of the Pills, viz. on the 8th and 10th, each of which gave him three or four Stools, and brought away, the first about two Ounces, the second about two and a half of clear crude Mercury. On the fourteenth he began to spit pretty freely; not a thick viscid Phlegm, such as he would sometimes discharge when he was very ill; nor a raw Rheum, like what arises from Mercury in a Salivation; nor a thin and sharp Saliva resembling those critical

tical Evacuations by the Mouth, which we often see, particularly in those hysterical Patients who are Scorbutick, but a smooth yellowish Matter, which he threw off without much trouble. On the sixteenth he took the Pills again, which carried off about two Ounces more of the clear Mercury, and in the Ev'ning, when I saw him at *Chart*, he thought himself much easier, and was very well pleas'd with the Expectation of his farther Amendment, which he entertain'd from his having felt himself at Times this Day a little Aguish; for about three Years ago, once in *January*, and again at the *Michaelmas* following, he had found great Relief by two or three Fits of an Ague. Upon this I advis'd him to keep House and give himself Rest, as well to be free from the Pain that he puts himself to, even in such little Works as he can do, as to avoid the Injuries of the Weather, which at present is pretty changeable, and for these two Days not a little cold, the Wind being at *N. E.* By this means (it being two Days before the Full Moon) I hop'd he might have the Benefit of Nature's Work without Interruption or Exaggeration; accordingly, he had the three following Days a slight but genuine Quotidian, beginning with the Sense of Cold, and succeeded regularly by the Shaking, Fever, and critical Sweats.

Sweats. On the twentieth, the Spitting (which had encreased to a good Degree, and become very well digested) being now abated, and grown white; and his Ague, as he judg'd, being determin'd, he repeated the Pills, by which he had three or four easy Stools, without any crude Mercury in them, and his Breath was sensibly amended; his Stomach return'd, his Breath grew regular, and the next Day, when he took another Dose of his Pills, his Spitting ceased, and the Alteration was so great, that on the Morrow he ventur'd out to his Work again, and did it with no great Uneasiness. On the twenty fifth he walk'd to *Ashford* to meet me, when I found him as well, and much in the same Plight as before his Relapse, when I took his Case at Mr. *Hooker's*. From this Time forward his Health and Strength daily improved, and he has taken his Pills every third or fourth Morning, and his crude Mercury in the Ev'nings of the intermediate Days, and has come to me to *Ashford* on the sixth, twelfth, and twenty fourth Days, and sent to me a particular Message on the twenty ninth; at all which Times he was gradually raised into so good a State of Health, that he is altogether in his former Way of Life, both as to his Diet and his Work; is chearful, strong and active; constant in his Labour, and does all his  
Business

Business with Pleasure ; and he remarks, that since his last Amendment he has not been, as usually, much disturb'd by the sharp North and East Winds, which have been Stationary this whole Month (except a Day or two) and have been much more severe than is common at this Time of the Year ; tedious to all, and injurious to most Valetudinarians, but most of all to the Asthmatick.

Now, from the eighth of *April* to the twenty ninth of *May*, he has taken twelve or thirteen Doses of the Quicksilver Pills ; they have always work'd in the same quick but gentle Manner, without Sickneſs, Gripping, or waste of Strength. The first three Doses brought away a considerable Quantity of the clear crude Mercury, which had lodg'd in his Bowels many Days, the latter none ; but he would frequently see very small Particles of it in his common Stools, though never so much at any one Time, as before, when it came seldom. As to the crude Mercury, he has taken that in his usual Dose only on those Days when he omitted the Pills ; and he is now preparing to leave it off, by taking a lesser Dose every other Day, and purging with the Pills once in eight, ten, or twelve Days, according to the Rules given him when he began with them.



The Winds from *April* the seventh till the first of *May* have been very uncertain; they were chiefly in the West and South, but now and then they made a Shift for a few Hours into the North and East; on the thirteenth and seventeenth in particular, which were stormy Days, with much Thunder and Rain, they were South West all Day long; but on the 18th (the Full Moon) they were so variable, that they were in all the four opposite Quarters within twenty Hours. After this they kept shifting, but were more in the North and East than in the West and South till *May-Day*; then they fix'd in the North and North East, and have been steady to these and the intermediate Points to the thirtieth (the Time of my writing) except on the twentieth, twenty first, and part of the twenty second, when they were South and South West.

The Temper of the Air has been conformable to the Winds, from *April* the seventh to *May-Day*, very changeable; sometimes close and hot, particularly on the thirteenth and seventeenth, which were stormy Days; at other Times clear and cold; and sometimes both hot and cold in the same Day. But through all the former Part of the Month, and even beyond the Middle of it, the Air has been continually very cold and dry; and on the

twentieth, twenty first, and part of the twenty second, it was as hot and dry. In this Month to the thirtieth (which finishes my Account) there have been scarce any temperate Days; nor, indeed, many moderate Hours in any Day; but they have been so opposite to one another, that several Mornings, that have been cold, black, frosty, and blasting, like the severe Mornings of *March*, have chang'd into a hot mid-day Sun, like the Noons of *July*, and reverted again into cloudy and cold Ev'nings: Nay, so contrary has the Season been to itself, that it has been the Manner of the whole Month, that while it has been roasting us with the intense Heat of the Sun, it has been at the same Time freezing us with the sharp Cold of the piercing Winds, insomuch, that to this very Time, Fires are scarcely out of daily use in the Parlor. During this Month the Grass and Garden Herbs, which in *March* and the former part of *April* were very forward, have been greatly check'd in their Growth, the Fruit-Trees blasted, and the Colds, that were so epidemical in *January* and *February*, have taken great Numbers of People over again; and in many Places, particularly in the Neighbourhood of *Ashford*, Multitudes of Children have been most terribly tormented with a violent and obstinate Whooping Cough,

Cough, which is scarcely abated by vomiting, purging, blistering, and such Pectorals as we usually give in that Case, but is at this very Time universal in some Places thereabouts, and has carried off several Children.

Thus, Sir, at last, we are come to such a Crisis as seems likely to give you no farther Trouble about this Patient, except the hot Season of *July* (his other Time of Trial) should make any Alteration worth your Notice. If I have been too particular and tedious, I hope you will please kindly to impute it to my desire of being sufficiently plain, and of setting in a true and full Light, a Case, which at least I think of Consequence, and which, I perceive, you design for the Publick; a Case which has been in its Neighbourhood most notorious as to its Degree, and uncommon as to the Method of Cure. I will trouble you, Sir, with no Comments of mine upon this Disease, nor its Remedy; I will only take the Freedom to observe, that my Use of crude Mercury in any way, must at present be esteem'd rather as an Essay, than a settled regular Practice; but as I have met with some Instances of very good Success, and as yet with none that may incline me to think, that this is a less safe than Numbers of other efficacious Medicines to be found in the daily Prescriptions

tions of the most human and judicious Physicians; I am willing, at least, to hope, that a new Field is open'd in Medicine, wherein we may act with fresh Vigour, and learn to be less desperate in our Prognosticks about the Event of putrid Scurvy's, Scrophula's, Leprosies, Lues Venerea, Cancers, and such like *Herculean* Distempers; and may attain to a more sure, safe, and easy Method of opening the most remote Obstructions of the Glands, correcting the greatest Acidities of the Humours, and maintaining their natural Perspiration through the Skin, than hitherto we have known; for I apprehend, that by the Use of *Quicksilver*, given sometimes crude in its own pure Body, sometimes artificially divided into the smallest Particles, and blended with a just Proportion of proper Evacuants that may determine its Operation to any particular Passage, and at other Times combin'd into a mixt Course, partaking in different Degrees of both Forms, we may diversify, and effectually accommodate this Medicine to a great Variety of Cases, which we, at present, call incurable. But this, Sir, I presume not to say dogmatically, but rather leave it as a Problem, to the Consideration of those truly useful Philosophers, who, not content to rest themselves in the imaginary, or superstitious Virtues of Drugs, judiciously  
study

study the genuine, mechanical Operations of Medicines upon this nice System of elastick Fibres, fine Canals, and circulating Humours, of which our Bodies are compounded.

8. But I forbear to trespass any longer upon your Patience, and with due Respects subscribe my self,

S I R,

*Canterbury,*  
*June 3,*  
*1753.*

*Your Friend and*

*Servant, to command,*

C. Packe.

Having heard that there was somewhat very remarkable discover'd upon the opening the Corps of Mr. *Booth*, in relation to the *Quicksilver* that Gentleman had taken just before; I sent to Mr. *Small* the Surgeon, who dissected the Body, to desire he would draw me up the Case in Writing. In a few Days after which, happening in Consultation with our President, Sir *Hans Sloan*, who was also present, and had been call'd in two Days before his Death, he told me, that Mr. *Small* was drawing up the Case, and that I might very suddenly expect it, which I received in a Letter enclos'd, May 31. as follows,

*The*

The CASE of Mr. BOOTH, the famous  
Tragedian.

SIR,

THE absolute Necessity of attending  
some Business, in Town, and the ad-  
jacent Villages, has prevented my trans-  
mitting to you sooner, what was observ'd  
in the Opening of the Body of the late  
Mr. Booth, and what Quantity, (as you  
desire to be inform'd) of crude Mercury  
he had taken, by Dr. D—r's Advice;  
with the particular Circumstances that  
attended it, which I have now procur'd  
you, from Mrs. Booth's Relation, viz.

May 31. Mr. Booth being apprehensive  
of a Return of an Intermitting Fever,  
which about ten or twelve Days before  
had left him by the Use of the Cortex,  
he was resolv'd, after reading Dr. D—r's  
Book of Crude Mercury, and fearing the  
Return of his Fever, to take the Doctor's  
Advice: He accordingly sent for him, and  
from the Encouragement he gave him,  
*That it would not only prevent the Return*  
*of his Fever, but effectually cure him of all*  
*his Complaints.*

On the Day following he began the  
Mercurial Course, as directed, and so  
punctually follow'd those Directions, that  
he

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he had taken within two Ounces, two Pounds weight by *Tuesday May* the Eighth, at which Time he began to complain of a very great Pain on the forepart of his Head, and as great in his Bowels also, with a universal Uneasiness of his Body, insomuch that he could not remain one Moment in the same Posture.

This continued till the next Day, when he still hoped his *Mercurial Course* would answer the promised Effects; but his Lady apprehending the ill Consequences, sent away for Sir *Hans Sloan*, who, for the Relief of his Head, order'd nine Ounces of Blood to be drawn from the *Jugular*. Plaisters also *pro Plantis Pedum, ex Emp. Cephal. cum Euphorbio*. Having had no Passage, the following purging Draught,

℞ *Pil. Ruff.* 3 ss. *Aq. Lact. Alex.* ʒ iii.  
m. f. potio quam primum sumenda &  
repetatur vj<sup>a</sup> quaque hora donec Alvus  
soluta fuerit.

This proving ineffectual, the following Glyster,

℞ *Decoct. com. pro Glyst.* ʒ x. *Elect. Benit.* ʒ i. *Syr. de Spin. Cerv.* ʒ i ss. m. f.  
*Enema injiciendum* hora sexta *Vespertina*

of Quicksilver. 271

*spertina si Alvus non fuerit prius soluta.*

In the Evening, finding him faint and dispirited, this cordial Mixture was prescrib'd for him, (*scil.*)

*R. Aq. Laet. Alex. Mentb. ʒ ʒ iv. Conf. Raleigh. ʒ i. Alkerm. f. o. ʒ ii. Aq. Stephan. ʒ ii. Syr. Caryoph. ʒ iii. Spir. Lavend. C. ʒ ii. M. Capiat. Coch. W. Statim & in languoribus repetatur.*

*Pergat in Ufu ultimo præscript.*

Maii, 9<sup>o</sup> 1733. for Mr. Booth, H. S.

The next Day, the Head-ach still continuing, an *Epispastick* was laid all over the Scalp, and this Emulsion prescribed to obviate a Strangury, viz.

*R. Amynd. dul. Decoct. N<sup>o</sup>. xii. sem. 4 fr. Maj. ʒ ls. Contufis affunde Decoct. Hord. ʒ ii. & f. Emulſio cui adde Syr. de Althea ʒ i. & bibat hujus copioſe & frequenter.*

Maii x<sup>o</sup> 1733. for Mr. Booth, H. S.

In the Evening, his Costiveness still continuing, and the Symptoms encreasing, the following, which were the last.

*R.*



℞ *Lact. Vacim rec.* ʒ x. *Tereb. Ven.* ʒ iii.  
*Ol. Chamomel* ʒ ii. *Syr. de Spm. Cervi.*  
 ʒ i℥. m. f. *Emulsa injiciendum quam*  
*primum.*

℞ *Ol. Amygd. Dul. Syr. Viol. Elect. Le-*  
*nit.* a ʒ i℥. *flor. Sulph.* ʒ ii. *Sper. Geti*  
 ʒ ii. *Sackb. cand. q. s. m. f. Linctus*  
*Capiat. Cochl. 1<sup>a</sup>. ʒ<sup>3</sup> quinq; hora super*  
*bibendo Haust. Emalsi. præscripta.*

℞ *Spir. Lavend. Sul. Vol. Ol.* a ʒ i℥. m.  
*capiat. gut. xxx. cum quovis potulento.*

Mall x<sup>o</sup> 1733. for Mr. Booth. H. S.

It was on this Day that Mr. Booth died.

Mrs. Booth says, he made no new Com-  
 plaints till May the Eighth, nor had he  
 voided any of the Mercury before that  
 Day.

The Method of looking out for which,  
 was by dilating the Excrements in the  
 Bed-pan he made use of, with such Quan-  
 tity of Water that the Fæces run out at the  
 hollow of the Handle, whilst the Mercury  
 subsided to the Bottom of the Pan; the  
 whole Quantity of which thus collected,  
 with what adher'd to the Pan, was judg'd  
 to be about half a Pound weight.

His

His Body was open'd in the Presence of Sir Hans Sloan.

His *Liver* was in very good Order, neither hard nor livid, but somewhat larger than usual.

The *Gall Bladder* six Times bigger than what is commonly observed, and filled with *Bile*.

In the *Ductus Choledochus* was found a Gall Stone of the Size and Shape of a Horse Bean, which had so entirely stop't the *Bile* from passing into the *Duodenum*, that not the least Appearance thereof could be observed in the whole Tract of the *Intestines*.

There were five smaller Gall Stones found in the *Vesica Fellea*.

I endeavour'd to divide the *Rectum* and tie it, but it was so rotten that it broke between my Fingers like Tinder, and sent forth a most offensive cadaverous Stench.

The *Rectum*, with the other *Intestines*, were ript up with a Pair of Scissars, in which was found very little Excrement, but the whole Tract on the inside, lin'd with *Crude Mercury* divided in Globules, about the Bigness of Pins Heads.

The Inside of the *Intestines* was not glaz'd over with the Mercury, as you had been told, for they were as black as

T

your

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your Hat, and so rotten, that they would not endure the least straining without breaking in pieces.

*I am, Sir,*

*York Buildings,  
May 31,  
1733.*

*With the greatest Respect,*

*Your most humble Servant,*

**Alex. Small.**

**N. B.** There was no Fault in any Part of his Body but what is here mention'd.

**POSTSCRIPT.**

**Mr. Booth** had labour'd many Years under an obstinate Jaundice, for which he had ineffectually prosecuted many Courses of Medicine, and had, by the Advice of his Physician, been salivated for the Space of a Month, in each Day of which he spit at the least three Pints, oftner two Quarts, but with no good Effect.

The last Remedy, before this fatal Illness, he took, was *Rhubarb*, of which he chew'd each Day, for near the Space of two Years, at least three Drams; the Effect of which was, that he purged Eighteen, sometimes Twenty Times, in every Twenty four Hours, without being any

any Ways dispirited thereby; by which Method the Jaundice entirely vanish'd, and he recover'd his Strength and Flesh, growing Fat, and remaining in this hopeful Way till about a Month before he died, then he relaps'd into his Jaundice, attended with an intermitting Fever, the last of which he recover'd from by the Use of the *Cortex*, as has been hinted before.

**F I N I S.**



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6  
L. L. L.

